

THE STAR'S WORK COMPUTING & HIGH TECH



Shopping list

Looking for keyboards

By Haytham Ibrahim
Special to The Star

IT IS time to let you in on some secrets from Digitalville, a dark city where only a few know their way around! This time, we are going to help you in establishing your own MIDI starter set-up. Rumor has it that most monsters — I mean dealers — here in Jordan, charge customers more than enough to fill their hungry pockets. This old man is going to show you the way this time; beware of the sharks.

So let's get down to real business. The first thing you need to make music, apparently, is a keyboard of some kind. Now if you fancy MIDI sequencing, you must get a multitimbral synthesizer, that is, one that can respond to incoming MIDI data on different channels at the same time. Anyway, depending on your budget, you can get professional equipment starting at JD800. If you go down to Kawa's dealer in Prince Mohammad street, you can ask about the K4, the module of the acclaimed K4 synthesizer. If you are looking for Yamaha gear, go to Jeroma, but I must warn you, their prices are very high.

In fact, Yamaha have a very wide range of products. The one I really recommend for beginners is the TG33 or the TG55. These sell in the US for about \$600, so be

aware if the price is very far from the original US price.

If you like Korg instruments, which started a revolution in the music industry, you can try them out at Lorian, located near Safeway. The thing with Korg instruments here is that they are very expensive, they start at JD1500. Although the quality is



excellent, Korg instruments are not very flexible to program, so if you fancy twiddling knobs to 'create' new sounds, this is not what you'll be looking for.

Let's consider another possibility. If you want to import your own equipment or have a friend bring it with him for you, the choices are vast. You can get the Ensoniq SQ1 plus workstation, an excellent machine with a 16 track sequencer, for less than \$1600. If you fancy an excellent sampler at a modest price, then look no further than the Ensoniq EPS16. Its cheapest configuration sells in the US for \$2400 and you get a full blown 16 track

sequencer with 16 bit crystal clear sound; not bad if you consider other samplers.

Korg are very big abroad, especially after the introduction of their world renowned M1. The M1 is a good deal; it offers classic sound at a good price. But to tell you the truth, you can get better instruments nowadays for the same price.

As for Roland, they released two synthesizers a few months back, the JV80 and the JV30, both intended for the MIDI sequencing market. The Roland D-5 remains a good deal at \$900 as it offers 32 note polyphony and 8-way multitimbrality. Also, the lately introduced Roland SC-35 is an excellent buy at \$800. It offers 24 voice polyphony and 16 way multitimbrality.

If you prefer cheap workstations, then you can get the Peavey DPM V3 for \$1100. This is an excellent deal as you'll be getting an excellent sound with 16 voice polyphony that ought to keep you happy for a while.

You must have certainly noticed that I am praising most of the synthesizers mentioned here, but the examples given are mostly for musicians starting out. On the professional level, things tend to become more complex, so it's best to avoid confusion at this stage.

Besides, I really think that if you make the most out of your instrument, you can achieve astounding sonic results. It is up to you to make the difference, not the machine! ■

English version of Al-Muhasib Al-Mithali

★ IDEAL SYSTEMS has just completed the English version of Al-Muhasib Al-Mithali, its successful accounting package for the Macintosh.

The program is identical to the Arabic version with some added features.

There are plans to sell it as an official accounting system in the USA and Europe after registering it in Jordan according to the software protection law. ■

Computers go green

"WORLD INDUSTRY is going green," announced a green activist at an environment rally recently, expressing his joy at the passing of a number of bills on public health and protection of the environment in countries including Sweden, Germany and the US.

Computer manufacturers are also feeling the heat and are undergoing a transition to become 'environmentally friendly'. A lot of money, time and effort is being invested in finding the ways and means of safer manufacturing methods to minimize the harm inflicted on mother nature.

Apple Computer Inc. has promised to stop using chemical materials which harm the environment in manufacturing its hardware and has also promised to use more plastic in its products, since it is an easily recyclable material which should substantially decrease the amount of waste. Apple also recycles printer toners and the batteries used in its PowerBook notebook computers.

Hewlett Packard now gathers printer toners from users, takes them apart, melts them and then re-uses some 90 per cent of their components.

IBM has promised to work by all the laws and regulations governing the protection of the environment and has prepared a special program for company employees to follow in order to see this goal through. The company also removes pieces and parts from old machines and either recycles them for later use or develops them for resale. IBM donate old computers or excess ones from product lines to schools, welfare societies and other needy computer users.

XTREE, the American software company which released an excellent virus database-killer last year, has made a deal with the American Forest Association to plant a tree for every copy sold of its product. The company also uses materials which can be recycled in packaging its products.

Companies producing computer boards are also being pushed into the green race. NCR, IBM and Apple have promised to boycott companies that use chemicals harmful to the ozone layer in their electronic boards. This should push such producers to seek 'ozone friendly' alternatives.

The most rubbish produced by the computer industry, however, is not in fact plastic, nor any other manufacturing material which goes into computers. Paper happens to be the leader in computer rubbish generated from just about every computer company in huge, shocking amounts.

Copies, printouts, files, maps, memos — you name it — the computer industry churns out loads of it every year. So there's a new direction towards lessening the use of paper as much as possible and increasing the use of electronic mail, networked communication and paperless fax communication.

So the race to achieve the paperless, recycling, reusing great computer company is on. If IBM wins, maybe it should consider changing its name from Big Blue to Big Green. ■

To the creative in the computer field

★ The Jordan Computer Society (JCS), in keeping with its aim to serve the computer community and its users, has decided to invite creative people in the field of computing to present their ideas and products in a special section to be dedicated to this purpose in the Amman Computer Expo '92 running from 18 to 22 October.

Participants are not allowed to represent companies and are expected to provide their product or idea on disk if necessary, including hardware and software related to the presentation with full explanation and documentation.

Participation is open to educational institutions and there is age limit on participants. The last date for entry is 10 October 1992. ■



I asked the computer how a student whose average was 65% was accepted by the faculty of medicine, when a student whose average was 85% didn't get accepted at all. The computer just exploded!!



Prices : Jordan: JD 250, Egypt: LE 100, Kuwait: KD 400, Saudi Arabia: SR 300, Qatar: QR 300, UAE: DR 300
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Deputies go to trial in state security case page 2



The WorldPaper

EASTERN EUROPE REVISITED

Ten years ago, *The WorldPaper's* editor for Eastern Europe, Silvia Brucan, toured his region and reported on the crack in the facade of communism. Now, three years after communism's collapse, he again travels across the region and files this special report.



Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

Pages 14 & 15

In this week's

THE STAR'S
WORK
COMPUTING & HIGH TECH

In defence of the
Amiga

IBM release their
first compatible

SONY Mini-Disk
sees the light



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JORDAN

W E E K

An unconventional report on
Jordanian news and views

Historic welcome for King Hussein

More than a million Jordanians greet the King on his arrival



King Hussein on top of his car, as it is driven by Crown Prince Hassan



The Royal Family greets His Majesty on his arrival at Amman Civil Airport



Jubilant Jordanians throng the streets of Amman to catch a glimpse of their leader

Shbeilat, Qarrash deny charges as co-defendants plead guilty

By a Star Staff Writer

TWO CO-DEFENDANTS of Lower House members Laith Shbeilat and Yacoub Qarrash have pleaded guilty of affiliation to an illegal organization and possession of arms and explosives, setting the stage for an unprecedented trial of the two parliamentarians on charges of what amounts to treason.

If the guilty plea on Wednesday of Jabal Hussein merchants Ahmad Ramzi Al Ayoubi, 45, and Abdul Hamid Sadeq Dkedik, 44, was unexpected, much more shocking was their revelation at the State Security Court that Qarrash was the leader of the *Shabab Al Nafeer Al Islami*, which is described by the prosecution as an illegal organization with the avowed aim of toppling the monarchy.

However, Ayoubi and Dkedik qualified their plea by insisting that the group's sole objective was to "liberate" the Israeli-occupied territories, and the weapons and explosive discovered in their possession were to be used in armed struggle against the occupation power.

The two merchants, the third and fourth defendants in the trial which opened Monday, corroborated prosecution assertions by also revealing that the arms and explosives (TNT) were given to them by Qarrash.

Shbeilat and Qarrash, however, pleaded not guilty and appeared prepared for a tough legal battle spearheaded by prominent criminal lawyer Ibrahim Bakr, who leads a 12-member team of advocates representing Shbeilat, and Ahmad Abu Arkoub representing Qarrash.

Beginning Monday the prosecution is expected to produce over 20 witnesses to substantiate the charges against Shbeilat and Qarrash. Both men are accused of belonging to an illegal armed group seeking to topple the monarchy, inciting others to follow suit, attempting to damage Iraqi-Jordanian relations and possession of weapons and explosives.

Shbeilat also faces the additional charges of slandering His Majesty the King and members of Parliament.

The guilty plea of the third and fourth accused came after prosecutor Mohammad Hijazi refused defence claims that the investigations into the case, including telephone tapping and interception of mail, were improperly conducted and therefore their findings had no legal value.

Reading from a prepared statement, Major Hijazi referred point by point to the defence assertions, made Tuesday at the opening of the trial, and cited provisions in the various laws and regulations which allowed the prosecution to make use of investigations conducted by the General Intelligence Department.

The *Al Nafeer* case has drawn considerable attention locally, regionally and internationally since the involved deputies are Islamist-oriented.

Although not members of the powerful Muslim Brotherhood, Shbeilat and Qarrash are known for their distinct brand of Islamist approach to issues inside and outside Parliament. Adding further color to the case is an implicit Iranian link to the illegal group.

The charge sheet says that the idea for the group took roots at a 1990 meeting in Tehran attended by revolutionary Islamic organizations from around the world, including Lebanon's Hizbollah, and several splinter Palestinian groups, prominent among which was the Popular Front For the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP) led by Ahmad Jibril.

While stopping short of naming Iran as the source of funds for the group, the prosecution leaves little doubt that the revolutionary regime in Tehran was allegedly behind Shbeilat and Qarrash in its quest to establish caliphate-style governments in countries neighboring Israel. The Iranian embassy in Amman has denied that the Islamic republic had any relation with the case.

The public trial started four weeks after Qarrash and Shbeilat were detained following 11 months of surveillance and wiretapping. The two Jabal Hussein merchants were arrested on 17 August and a search of their warehouses produced a cache of automatic pistols and machine guns and heavy-duty explosives.

Details of family gang bust revealed by police chief

Public Security Dept. head Major-General Fadel Ali announced Monday the arrest of an 11-member family accused of committing murders and armed robberies during the last three years. Gen. Ali also announced that police have solved a number of murder cases including a multiple killing of an entire Zarka family last month. Speaking to the press, Gen. Ali dodged questions on the Jabal Hussein murder of a six-member family last April. But he said police were continuing their investigation of the case.

He said credit for the arrest of the 11-member gang goes to a special department unit which uncovered the murderers, who are accused of killing five people and committing 134 robberies in Amman and neighboring towns.



Gen Fadel Ali

Putting Salt on Jordan's tourism map

By Kate Daniels
Star Staff Writer

AFTER AQABA, Petra, the Dead Sea and Jerash, Salt may soon be on the itineraries of Jordan's growing groups of tourists. With its latent beauty and urbane charm, this historic city has become the focus of extensive renovation and development plans.

A former Ottoman administrative seat with buildings dating back to the 1700s, Salt now boasts an architectural heritage unparalleled in Jordan. New development plans aim to restore the city to its former glory, thus preserving its character and allowing new socio-economic opportunities.

Proposals for the project have been the work of the Salt Development Corporation (SDC), which has been liaising closely with experts from the Royal Scientific Society (RSS). What began seven years ago as a survey of the city's architecture soon gave rise to a sophisticated program involving architects, engineers, lawyers and urban economists.

Dr Seyfeddin Muaz, manager of the project and director of the RSS Building Research Center, said, "Salt has beautiful buildings of enormous architectural value. The problem is that its tenants have neither the will nor the money to keep their buildings in good shape."

The solution, he said, was to "revive" and "reactivate" the area, by restoring and preserving some 657 of its fine old structures, improving its urban character and by developing the town to cater to Jordan's tourist industry.

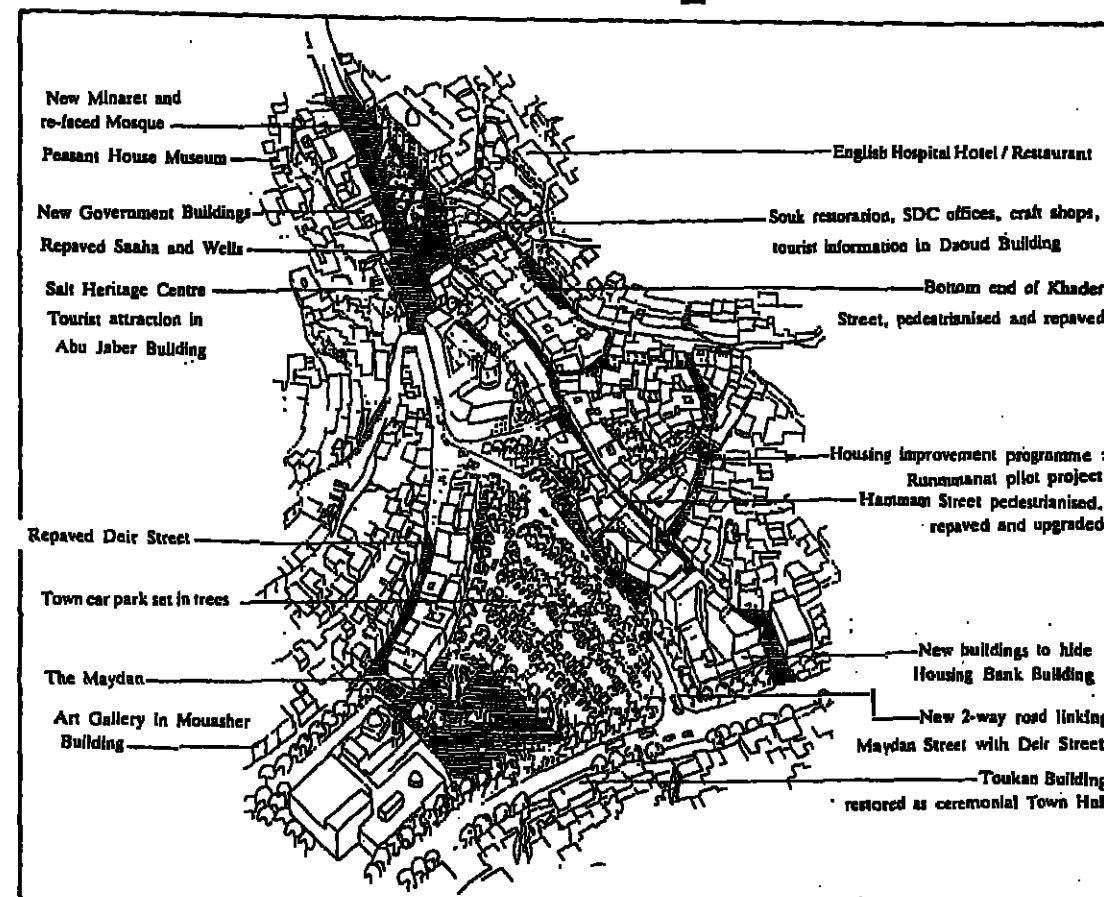
"Tourists can relate to Salt's urban setting," said RSS architect, Ms Ranwa Khatib. "Unlike Petra and Jerash which exhibit dead civilizations, Salt represents the modern history of Jordan."

Having surveyed all laws, regulations and the socio-economic status of the area, the SDC and RSS have now defined a three-point strategy towards developing the city.

First and foremost, the strategy tackles legal issues. It demands that new development within the old town be frozen and that a new Zoning Map be provided for the area, taking its urban fabric and topography into consideration. It also challenges all proposals for demolition and road-widening, and urges a change in the law to control alterations of valuable structures.

Secondly, the strategy focuses on finding immediate finances, with which to start work on up to 30 of the city's most historic buildings. It is hoped that a portion of these funds will also stretch to providing public spaces and improving the city's entry points.

The third and final aspect to the strategy is its city center Action Plan, defining tourism as the key to the revival of local business. Simply restoring the buildings and leaving them as they are will be meaningless, said Dr Muaz. "But as tourist attractions, we can use them as a source of income generation. This will also encourage owners to take better care of their houses."



An image of the future: Salt town center as seen by developers

Ms Khatib explained that the famed Abu Jaber building, once temporary residence to the late King Abdullah, will be transformed into a heritage center, where visitors will be able to visit the King's apartments.

She also described the proposed 'Court of Crafts', a traditional complex along the lines of

'Kan Zaman', offering handicraft shops, cafeterias, a 'Development of Salt' display and a *Hakawati* theater section for children. The old souq, which is unique in Jordan as a complete, traditional market street, will also have its facades redecorated, its streets repaved and the area will be pedestrianized.

Visitors hoping to stay in the city will be able to take rest within the comfort of the former English church and hospital complex, which the planners intend as a 15-bedroom hotel equipped with restaurants and a wedding hall. Other facilities also available will be a tourist information bureau, a post office, bathrooms and am-



ple parking spaces. An estimated JD eight million has been proposed as being necessary to finance the project in all of its aspects. Implementation, said Dr Muaz, will require two stages in total, the first being a five-year plan absorbing around half of the sum, with an "open" second stage, financial resources pending.

"We hope that within the first stage around JD three million will be provided by the public sector, charitable donations, the SDC and the Salt municipality," said Dr Muaz. The private sector will then be encouraged to invest about JD one million, which will hopefully trigger the second phase.

Despite the value of the project in terms of heritage and culture, the economic returns from such a venture abound. New jobs will be created in Salt, incomes will be boosted and existing businesses will both profit and thrive. Perhaps the most propitious reward will be a strengthened sense of unity and a new air of vitality for one of Jordan's oldest and most respected urban communities.

Protecting Petra: Jordan's experts leave no stone unturned

By Vesna Masharqa
Special to The Star

AS THE stone of Petra's monuments faces the ravages of the elements, Jordanian scientists have set about beating the deterioration process in a bid to preserve their heritage.

Local expert Dr Talal Akashi told The Star that "a number of facades of the monuments in Petra" are suffering from corrosion problems, and that specialized research into stone preservation is now under way.

Director of the Weathering Section at the Higher Council for Science and Technology, Dr Akashi and his team have been working against the odds to implement new ideas and effective methods to save the 2000 year-old site.

"There is little experience in the world with the maintenance of carved sand-stone," he said. "Monuments of the type found in Petra are few, and are usually the isolated attempts of Man's interaction with materials in nature. Petra is the only place in the world with a huge number of carved sand-stone objects concentrated in one site."

Dr Akashi explained that throughout time, sand-stone has largely been used as a construction material rather than one with

which to create art forms. The preservation of isolated sand-stone pieces has been much more explored by archaeologists, and is infinitely simpler than preserving 3000 archaeological sites at one time — as is the case in Petra.

The problem of sand-stone, he added, lies in its vulnerability to weathering factors. Constant exposure to winds, rain, sun and water tend to accelerate its corrosion. As the grains of sand crumble from the monuments, Dr Akashi and his team are now carefully recording any transformation, both inside and on the surfaces of the monuments.

Experts at the Weathering Section are also recording the different types of rock found at the site, even down to their microscopic characteristics. They are mapping and documenting the exact weathered forms of the monuments, as well as recording the climate data of the interface between the atmosphere and rock surface. Laboratory experiments are also being performed to investigate the effects of weathering on various samples of rock forms.

Two known ways of protecting carved sand-stone are the structural reinforcement and stone impregnation techniques, both of which the team are studying.

They are also studying the effects of different adhesives on the stone. Part of their experiments take place in the laboratory, the other at the Petra site.

"In order to carry out extensive preservation measures, the Weathering Section should have its permanent research station in Petra, like the Archaeological Department," said Dr Akashi. He added that the Department is mainly limited to excavation, restoration and reconstruction, while the detection of weathering factors and protection of monuments are the particular tasks of the Weathering Section.

"Unfortunately, we will not be able to respond entirely to these demands unless we have the monitoring station, which will cost a lot of money," said Dr Akashi.

Response to the demand for urgent action at the site has spawned a number of proposals offering technical and financial aid. What Dr Akashi described as the "master preliminary plan" of protection is under the care of the University of Jordan and the Department of Archaeology. A number of national institutions are also involved, as are UNESCO, who feature Petra on their heritage list.

Future plans for the preservation of Petra include a study into



Surface remains of the Petra structure

the deterioration of its facades, funded by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency and the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, while the French national power company Electricité de France (EDF) is currently working on hydrological problems in the region, examining ways of saving and utilizing underground water sources. Their efforts have been facilitated by a geological map, especially drawn up by the National Resources Authority.

The ever lasting luxury of silk

By Maggie James

SINCE ITS discovery the fine, natural product of silk has been highly coveted. After thousands of years sericulture is still thriving and the production of silk, which remains labor intensive, continues in more than 30 countries.

LONDON — The story of silk is a saga. Its history begins over five thousand years ago in China, where the art of silk production was to remain exclusive for at least the following 2500 years. Its discovery is the subject of many myths and legends, but Dr John Feltwell, naturalist and conservationist, has spent more than 10 years sifting through these to produce *The Story of Silk*, a highly absorbing, well researched and illustrated yarn. Although he prosaically calls silk "simply the secretion from the moth of the moth caterpillar", his comprehensive description of every aspect of silk, from its origins, methods of production and uses, to an evaluation of the silk industry today is proof of his fascination with the topic.

Discounting myth and legend, Feltwell singles out the one person believed to be most responsible for starting silk production, the Chinese Empress Hsi Ling-Shi (otherwise known as Te-ling-she) in Hwang-te. In 2640 BC, she went to retrieve a cocoon which had accidentally fallen into hot water (some say a cup of tea) and, upon withdrawing it, was amazed to see a delicate thread attached. It was not long before its potential was fully appreciated. Her enthusiasm impressed the emperor who was then encouraged to have robes made out of the silk thread.

As sericulture grew and silk became a lucrative merchandise, it also assumed a social status comparable to gold and pearls. Under Roman rule, silk was coveted but not by men, so much so that Tiberius (emperor, 42 BC-AD 37) passed a law forbidding any man from defiling or dishonoring himself by wearing silk.

As the value of silk became the stuff of legends and adventures' tales, it was prized and coveted, with some predictable consequences. In 552 two Persian monks, missionaries in China, stole silkworm eggs and spirited them back to Constantinople (now Istanbul) in perhaps the first known industrial espionage of its kind. The door was then opened to silk production in Europe. The Japanese however, had already acquired the art in the fourth century, apparently through Korea, while India probably got in even earlier.

The Indian Bombyx silk (as produced in China, from the Bombyx silkworm) has been produced for over 2000 years, while silk produced from the native tussah silkworm is known to have originated about 5000 years ago.

The Chinese dominance of the silk trade meant that Beijing remained the silk center of the world long after the greatest traffic along the Silk Road was recorded in the Tang period (AD 618-907). Marco Polo (1254-1324) reported from his journeys through the former USSR, Iran and China that silk was well established as a product and merchandise along the route. Silk

was produced in abundance in Georgia. Baghdad was literally bedecked with silks, and Yazd in central Iran served as an export outlet. The success of silk led to other natural fibers winning greater favor, among them camel hair and, incredibly, asbestos fibre, woven by the Tartars.

While in Beijing, Marco Polo witnessed up to a thousand cart-loads a day of silk made by peasants in the surrounding countryside, who kept silkworms and also provided the finished product. This was the extravagant age of Kublai Khan (1216-1294), when China itself used up large quantities of its world famous product.

The methods of reeling, twisting and weaving silk have hardly changed since the earliest times, and it is still possible to draw up to two kilometers of silk thread from just one cocoon.

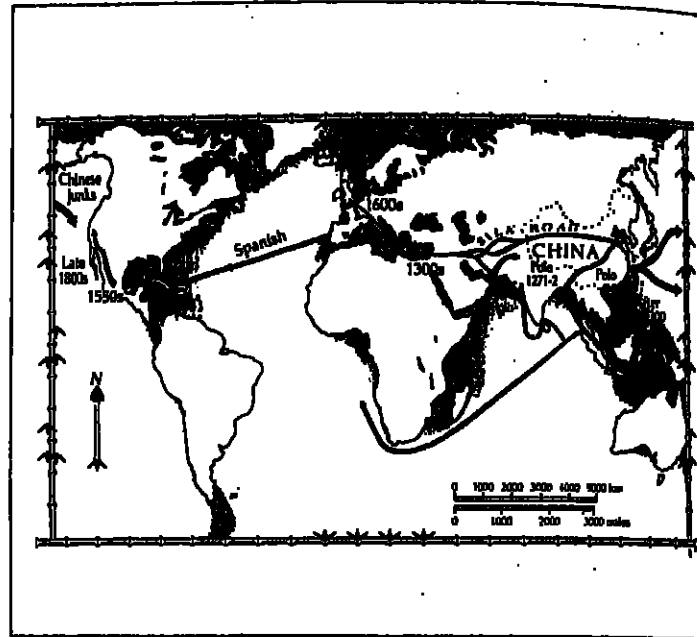
Although more than 30 countries now produce silk, China remains the biggest producer. With industrial expansion, silk production in Japan and Korea is



Empress Hsi-Ling-Shi (2640 BC). In the background are terey of silkworms.

on the decline, India still has the monopoly of tougher wild silks, of which tussah is the best known, and a host of other countries dabble in silk production. Some, like France, have rejuvenated their defunct silk industry. In Latin America silk production is an increasing business.

Feltwell asserts that the future of the silk industry worldwide cannot look better. He predicts that the item will blossom forth in those undeveloped countries that cannot modernize rapidly because of lack of money; their unskilled workforces will produce silk at minimal cost to the employer, thus putting silk on the



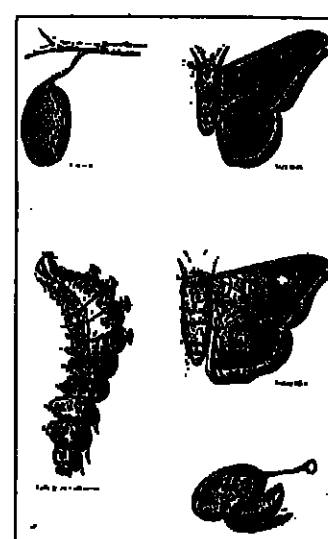
The Silk Road passed through the New World and back to Asia.

market with a large profit margin.

This should not surprise those who have never underestimated silk's global reach and sustained charm. As Feltwell points out, the common conception of the Silk Road as a link between the stony wastes of China and the Mediterranean remains — well, a common misconception.

Before the jet age took care of distances, the Silk Road had meandered through Spain, across the Atlantic to Latin America and southern United States and, eastward, through to the "splash and spume of Pacific breakers on the beaches of present-day California," circumnavigating the globe as softly and assuredly as silk. ■

Maggie James is the assistant editor of Academic File.



The silkworm life cycle.

Lessons Columbus learnt from the Islamic world

By Jennifer Foulds

LOS ANGELES — This year's 'Columbus anniversary', aside from kicking up a storm among the native Americans, has demonstrated one other major flaw. Its protagonists have yet to acknowledge the role played by Islamic intellectuals and scientists in guiding the explorer towards his discovery.

For it was Arabic manuscripts and texts, many of them original works and others rendered from Greek writings that had been otherwise lost to the West, that played perhaps the most decisive role in the preparations for his historic voyage.

Hernando Columbus, in his biography of his father Christopher, listed the classical and medieval sources that led the admiral to think he could reach the Indies by sailing westward.

One of the most important of these sources, according to Arabist Paul Lunde, was Aristotle's *De Caelo* (On the Heavens), a book known in Arabic translation since the ninth century and often quoted by Arabic historians and geographers. The great usefulness of *De Caelo* for the explorer lay in the fascinating geographical details that Aristotle offered.



Ibn Khaldun (1332-1407)

The original Greek text reached Italy in the 15th century, after the fall of Constantinople (Istanbul) in 1453, but was not printed until after the discovery of America.

In the book, Aristotle suggested that Asia may stretch right around the globe, perhaps joining Africa, or at least that both are washed by the same sea.

This was further helped by such events as the discovery during the Middle Ages of the Canary Islands, also called the Eternal Isles by Arab historians, which allowed seafaring explorers to work out ways in which the currents in the water could be used to launch westbound ships. It is often not realized that Ar-

ab explorers were the first to sight the Canaries, having been driven there by chance. According to Lunde, writing in a special issue of the *Aramco World* magazine, the discovery of the Canary Islands represented to Arabs and Europeans alike the confirmation of the truth of classical texts and spurred both to search for other bodies of land further to the west.

Arab seafarers apparently landed on one of the Canary Islands as early as the 10th century, but it was not until much later that journeys to those shores were recorded. One voyage, in particular which still finds few echoes in western annals, apparently took place around 1350 and was described by Ibn Khaldun, the famous Islamic thinker and historian.

"We have heard that Frankish ships reached the Eternal Isles in the middle of this century," Ibn Khaldun wrote. "They attacked and plundered the natives, capturing some whom they sold on the coast of Morocco. These captives entered the service of the Sultan, and after learning Arabic were able to tell about life on their island."

Shortly after Ibn Khaldun wrote the passage and largely as a result of the discovery of the Canary Islands, Portuguese and

Spanish sailors discovered how to use the current and wind patterns of the Atlantic to reach destinations across open seas.

But Islamic and Arab interest in the world beyond the Atlantic Ocean predated Columbus and coincided with the European Middle Ages. Both Europeans and Arabs of the period referred to the as yet unexplored sea as "The Sea of Darkness" (*Bahr Al Zulamat*). Later usage favored more propitious names, such as "The Green Sea" or "The Circumambient Ocean," first used by the geographer Al Masudi. But according to Paul Lunde, the most frequent Arabic name for the Atlantic was *Al Bahr Al Muhl* which embodied an ancient notion that prevailed in Babylon.

The Babylonians, and perhaps the Sumerians before them, saw the inhabited part of the world as an upturned boat floating in the sea. The concept eventually passed from Babylon to the Greeks.

Geographers from Herodotus on described the world as surrounded by ocean, even when the limits of this world seemed to surpass anything the Babylonians could have imagined. Long after Aristotle had demonstrated in the fourth century BC that the world was a sphere, the old Babylonian image persisted. The idea was quite off the mark, as we now know that all the oceans of the world are interconnected. ■

Jennifer Foulds is a writer and researcher based in Los Angeles.

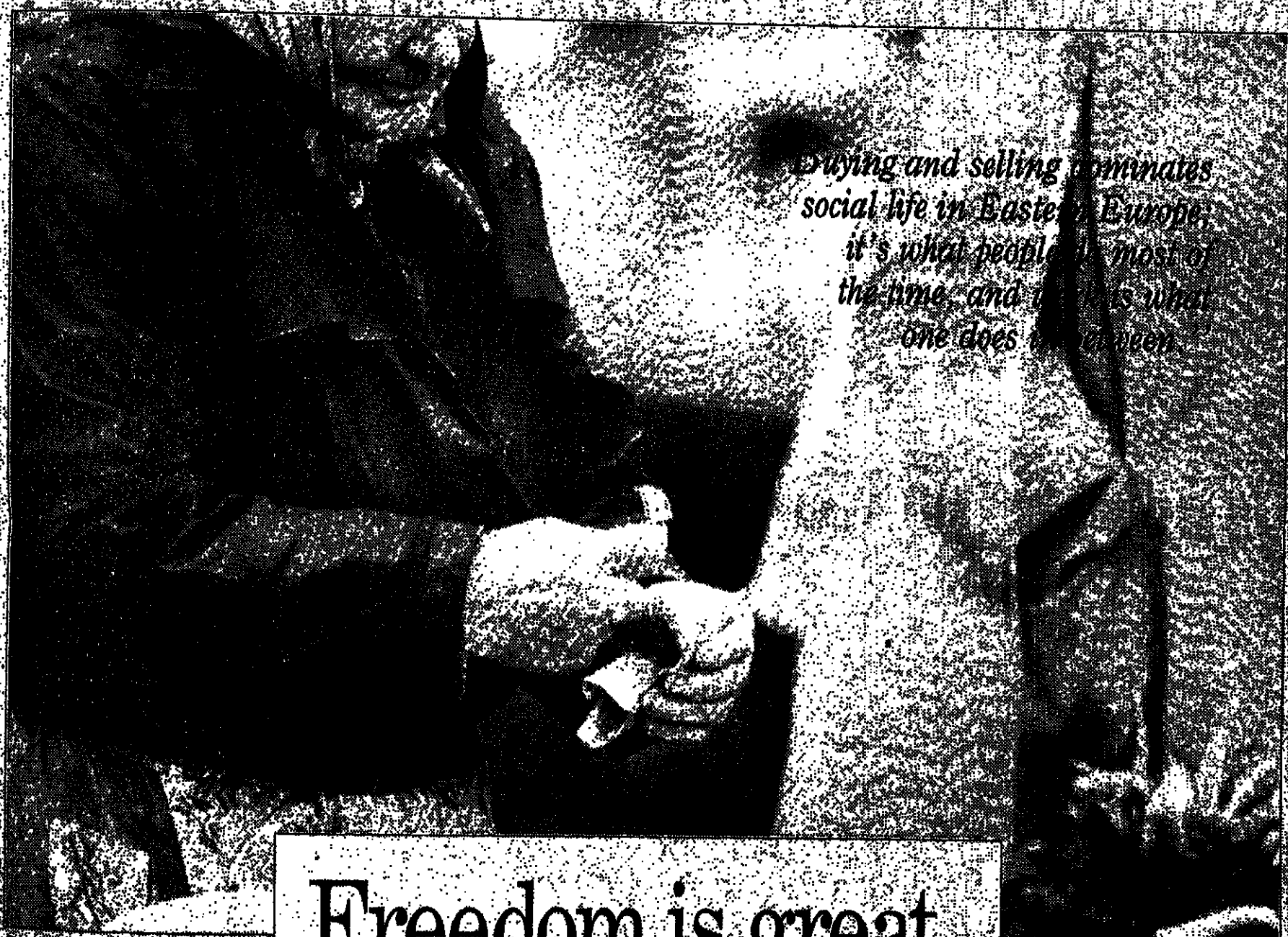
A special section
on global affairs prepared for
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NEW AMERICAN AGENDA
NEXT ISSUE

The World Paper

September
1992

EASTERN EUROPE REVISITED



Buying and selling dominates social life in Eastern Europe, it's what people do most of the time, and it's what one does to survive.

Freedom is great, but expensive

By SILVIU BRUCAN in Bucharest, Romania

WHAT AN experience. A vision that has seen the dramatic change of race and structure in world history. On my first regional tour of Eastern Europe for *The World Paper* in the summer of 1992, communism was still well entrenched and the prevailing view in the West was that the continent bloc would remain a major Western net power for decades to come.

But Germany is a showcase of the changes that have taken place. The old German Democratic Republic (DDR) has been replaced by a new Germany, a free market economy, and a new political system. The DDR was a major power in the Eastern Bloc, and its collapse has reshaped the balance of power in Europe.

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EASTERN EUROPE REVISITED

Continued from previous page
The *schafner* (conductor), however, soon cut our expectations down to size, telling us that there was no dining car and all he could offer was mineral water—not even cold because the refrigerator did not work. Nor did the toilet flush, as we soon discovered.

This was not a promising beginning for a journey through the former communist countries of Eastern Europe, and in Budapest the train station still looked old and tired. But we soon discovered that the city around it is booming. Hungary, having experimented with market mechanisms for more than 20 years, is outpacing all its neighbors in economic reform. In 1990, when Western businessmen viewed the region as the "Wild East," Budapest was certainly the Klondike boomtown of the gold rush. Now the center is clean and prosperous, swamped with Western businessmen and tourists. Traffic on the main boulevards is as crazy as traffic in London or Paris. Smart Mercedes, Renaults and Fiats have replaced rickety Trabants, Ladas and Skodas.

The trouble with Eastern Europe's economic transformation is that the initial emphasis has been on consumption, not production. Buying and selling dominates social life in the East; it's what people do most of the time, and work is what one does in between.

Karl Marx thought that religion was the opium of the masses, keeping them quiet. But shopping is the new opium because there is an insatiable desire for Western consumer goods. On the main streets of Bucharest, Prague, Sofia and Warsaw, elegant boutiques have opened, with famous brand names like Benetton, Stefanel,



Shopping in Budapest: Another opium of the people?

The economic picture is still gray, and . . .

Dreams of an overnight bonanza fade in the dawn of capitalism

	Production decline%		Inflation%		Unemployment%	
	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991
Bulgaria	16.8	27.3	70	550	-	10.0
Czechoslovakia	37	21.3	10	60	0.6	6.3
Poland	24.2	11.9	586	74	5.0	10.4
Romania	14.3	177	4	319	1.0	2.7
Hungary	9.2	18.8	29	36	1.5	8.3
Former USSR	1.2	6.2	5	55	-	-
Former GDR	-	18.0	-	26	12.0	16.5

SOURCE: GUSTAV WYNNER (POLAND)

Gucci, Pierre Cardin, Yves Saint Laurent, Guerlain and Revlon blazing in neon. The desire to acquire these new goods has driven people into a frenzy of market activity, selling whatever they can to buy what they want. Kiosks, small stalls and vendors selling off the back of trucks now swamp public squares, subway stations and the street corners of crowded main boulevards.

There are said to be 20,000 street vendors and traders in Bucharest. Most are gypsies, but there are

also many pensioners, housewives and even children hawking almost anything: Chinese sneakers, Turkish leather jackets and sundresses, Italian shoes, American sports socks and French cosmetics. All kinds of food items are sold, including Brazilian instant coffee, Dutch and German beer, Romanian sheep cheese and many types of juices from Greece, Turkey and Israel.

R.D. is a retired engineer in his sixties. Every morning at 7 a.m. he opens his stall in the open-air

market in my borough of Bucharest. He sells mushrooms and vegetables he grows on his own plot of land. His monthly pension is US\$50, but he makes more than \$500 in the market. In the next stall is S.C., a 52-year-old government computer technician who quit her job to make five times her previous salary by selling Christian Dior moisturizer and other French cosmetics. "I could not support my three children on what I got in the Ministry," she says.

Every Sunday, a huge flea market takes shape on the outskirts of Bucharest at a place called Talcio. The covered market comprises hundreds of individual stalls featuring colorful displays of almost everything imaginable for sale. Competition is fierce and business is brisk. Women and men of all ages stand almost shoulder-to-shoulder, loudly seeking customers. But prices are flexible and one must know how to drive a hard bargain. The fast money is made in the auto-parts section. If during the week the mirror of your car, or one of the tires, or the whole steering wheel has been stolen, you can almost assuredly buy it back here. The price, of course, is outrageous, for it includes the risk involved in the procurement.

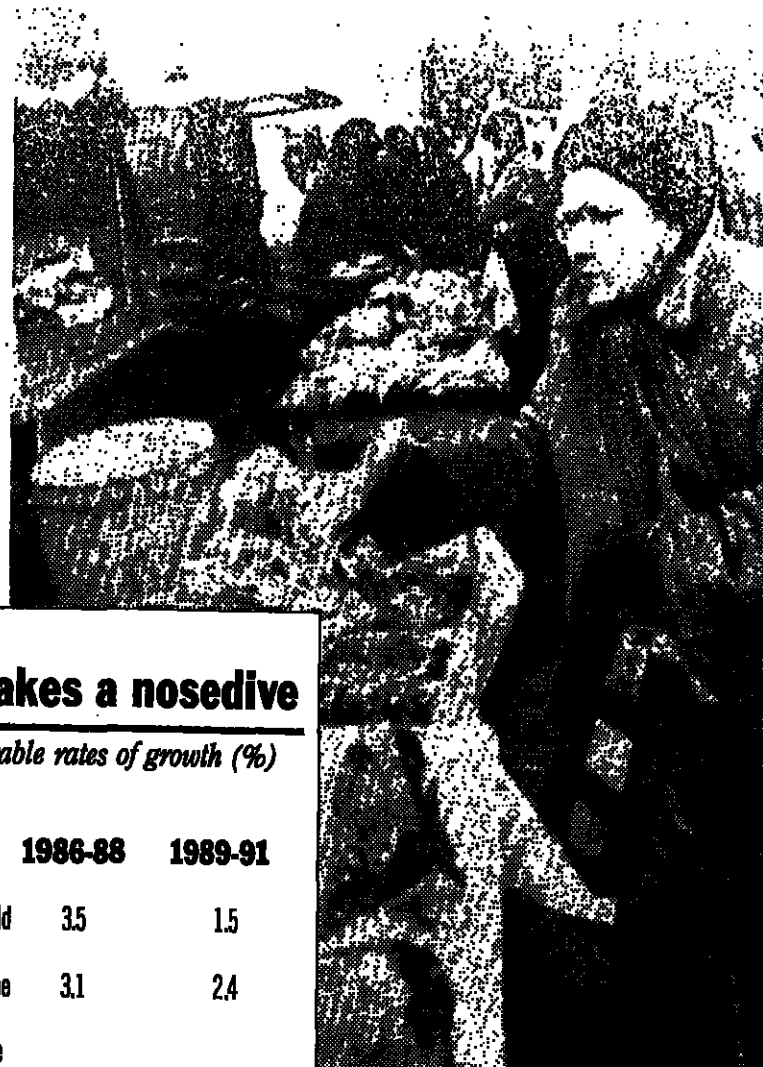
But the hottest item in town is the press. The information explosion and the elimination of all restrictions on the press after four decades of dark and uniform news written in what

GNP takes a nosedive

Comparable rates of growth (%)

	1986-88	1989-91
The World	3.5	1.5
Western Europe	3.1	2.4
Eastern Europe (without CIS)	2.4	-7.0

SOURCE: ZYX CORPORATION (POLAND)



A market in Warsaw: More meat than money.

used to call the "wooden language" has created an insatiable reading public. People can be seen reading all the time everywhere, riding up escalators or walking down ice-slick streets. It's as if they are afraid that this will all disappear once more under the censor's hand at a moment's notice.

I recall one morning at a kiosk when an old woman bought five or six publications, then looked in her purse and exclaimed: "My God, I haven't got enough money left for bread!"

People's capitalism

The same energy and enterprise has not gone into the production side of the economies. In Romania (as in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria), the overall shortage of capital has been compounded by the xenophobic concern about "selling out the country" to foreigners. This has focused attention on various ways of privatizing industry to ensure domestic ownership. Romania, noticing foreign investors' lack of interest in buying the mammoth industries built by Ceausescu, was the first to bet its industrial future on a vast program of distributing coupons to all its adult citizens, entitling them to buy shares in what were state-owned enterprises. Since the beginning of June, about 16 million Romanians have become shareholders.

In Czechoslovakia, people were skeptical about such a scheme and

were reluctant to pay the \$35 registration fee. But when Viktor Kozeny, chairman of the state's Investment Fund, launched an aggressive advertising campaign promising a tenfold return on the registration fee within a year, people went crazy. Long lines formed in front of registration offices and in two or three days 8.6 million citizens signed on.

However, it is unlikely that voucher schemes will have any immediate economic impact. Whereas foreign investors are bringing modern management and marketing skills and new capital and technology, native investors bring only their desire to get rich.

Nonetheless, the voucher schemes are politically and socially important: they have made the market system popular and struck a fatal blow to the bureaucrats now managing those industries and opposing privatization. Most of the shares will probably end up in the hands of rich entrepreneurs—and this is the quickest way of forming a large middle class, the linchpin of a market economy.

The returnees

For quite a few Western executives who were born in Eastern Europe, investing in the economy of their country of birth is a way of going home again. They enjoy important advantages over other Western businessmen. To start with, they speak the language of their prospective

customers and partners. The local authorities prefer to deal with compatriots coming from the West and embrace them warmly. It is much easier and politically acceptable to sell a factory to them rather than to "a foreigner." After all, they are "one of us," and the fact that they had to escape from a communist government and choose liberty in the West makes them heroes these days.

In Romania, German businessman Ion Tiriac, who frequently flies into Bucharest airport in his personal jet, is a popular figure. He has founded a bank, made some investments in industry, and financed a modern bakery in his hometown of Brasov and a group of homes for retarded children. Some Romanian newspapers have suggested that Tiriac, who first became a household name as a tennis star in the 1960s, would make a viable presidential candidate.

Frank Czena participated in the Hungarian uprising of 1956 and escaped capture by slipping out the back door of his grandmother's house just as the secret police arrived to arrest him. Owner of a successful steel manufacturing and decorative iron company in the US, Czena has returned to Hungary to build a steelworks. "To tell you the truth," says Czena, "I am willing to take a loss just to see private enterprise blooming here." Chicago businessman Donald Mucha, who exports machinery components to his native Poland, takes the same view: "I am excited to help Poland, and if some money comes out of that, I don't mind."

But the big story is the return of Thomas Bata, the head of the Toronto-based shoe chain which sells 300 million pairs of shoes annually. Founded in 1894 by Bata's father in the Moravian town of Zlin, the factory was nationalized by the communist regime. The family moved to Canada and built the world's largest shoe company. At 75, Thomas Bata returned to Czechoslovakia in 1989 and was greeted at Prague airport by crowds chanting: "Bata! Bata!" In the most popular joint venture in Czechoslovakia, Bata began renovating the dilapidated factory in Zlin. (For more on Bata, see the *The WorldPaper*, October 1990, "Eastern Europe's morning after.")

In 1990 and 1991, more than \$2.3 billion in foreign investment poured into the Hungarian economy. By comparison, Czechoslovakia, taking a slower approach to economic change, attracted only \$800 million. Poland has attracted about \$1 billion in Western capital; Romania and Bulgaria are at the bottom of the list.

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Fresh perspectives
from around the world on
matters of global concern.

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From capitalism to socialism and back

IN HIS 74 YEARS, Silvio Brindan has been a statesman, scholar and journalist. He has been a revolutionary and counter-revolutionary. He has observed, chronicled—and influenced—the modern history of his native Romania and most of Eastern Europe.

Brindan was an early member of the Communist Party of Romania, joining in the days before World War II. He was imprisoned during the war and in the aftermath of the war.

practiced by Romanian President Nicolai Ceausescu. In November 1989, Brindan signed an open letter to President Ceausescu supporting a broad-based workers' movement in the town of Brasov. He was held incommunicado under house arrest for several months thereafter. In March 1990, he published a letter signed by other dissident members of the Romanian Communist Party, calling for the end of Ceausescu's rule.

Brindan's letter was one of the first in a series of open letters that helped to bring about the fall of Ceausescu's regime. He is now a member of the Romanian Parliament.



Associate Editor Silvio Brindan

“Urgente!”
 “¡RÁPIDO!”
 “Schnell!”
 “Immédiatement!”
 「至急です。」

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EASTERN EUROPE REVISITED

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn and Rambo for sale at a Budapest stand. The press remains a hot item in Eastern Europe.



Too many negatives—and the wrong positives

Percentage change in country economic performance from 1990 to 1991

Country	GNP	Industrial production	Investment	Employment	Retail prices	Export	Import
Bulgaria	-20	-28	-37	-17	+450	-6	-25
Czechoslovakia	-14	-22	-28	-12	+50	-11	-25
Yugoslavia	-18	-21	-20	-7	+118	-12	-15
Poland	-9	-12	-8	-8	+70	-1	+39
Romania	-14	-18	-22	-13	+200	-25	-36
Hungary	-10	-18	-9	-12	+35	-11	+2
Eastern Europe* (without CIS)	-13	-19	-18	-10	+115	-10	-8

SOURCE: ZYCH GOSPODARSTWA POLSKA

*Approximate weighted averages

Freedom is great, but expensive

Continued from page 3

Western companies are lured to Eastern Europe by a cheap and educated labor force and the pent-up demands of almost 150 million consumers. The quickest return on investment is in the hotel industry. There is a desperate shortage of good hotel accommodations and the big operators soon discovered that any decent hotel can get a 90 to 95 percent occupancy rate. Most attractive to hoteliers is the fact that Western businessmen and tourists are paying hotel bills in Western currencies which can easily be sent home.

Computer giants such as IBM, Digital, ICL and Goldstar have flooded the new market, competing fiercely to build national information networks in all those countries. Now color TVs, personal computers and fax machines can be found for sale everywhere, although prices are high.

Fast food outlets have also done very well, particularly McDonald's and Pizza Hut which achieve their highest overseas turnover in restaurants in the Eastern capitals. Romanians watch with amazement as Pepsi-Cola and Coca-Cola battle for control of local markets. The recent opening of a McDonald's in Warsaw was front-page news.

The big automakers also are fighting bitterly for market dominance. General Motors led the way with the first large industrial venture in Eastern Europe and in March its new plant in Hungary began produc-

ing the Opel-Astra. Fiat followed suit in Poland, buying a 90 percent share of FSM to modernize the Polish automaker's plant and double its production to 460,000 cars a year by 1998. Finally, Volkswagen won a heated competition to assume a 70 percent interest in the Czech automaker Skoda and has shown a recent interest in a factory in Poznan, Poland.

Doing business these days first means communicating, something communist planners never understood. Telephone systems in Eastern Europe are notoriously inefficient and it can take hours to get a long-distance call through. AT&T, British Telecom, Ericsson, Alcatel and Siemens have been wrestling for contracts with local governments. By connecting city phone systems to satellite networks, Western companies have updated telecommunications systems hardly touched since 1938.

But three years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, one realizes that the early dreams of a gold rush in the "Wild East" were overblown. Out of the 300 companies that first took the trail eastward, only a core of about 50 became seriously involved. The carpathaggers, speculators and crooks running after a fast buck have all gone.

Those doing the nitty-gritty work are multinational companies that have the experience and specialized staff for such ventures—and stub-

born investors betting on handsome profits later rather than sooner. These are the important players who are doing the hiring and training, finding venture capital, targeting growth markets and systematically eliminating unprofitable enterprises.

The going has been tough. Foreign investors have found Eastern Europe's infrastructure poor and outdated. To reach modern standards, 440,000 kilometers of new roads are required at an estimated cost of \$130 billion.

Foreign businessmen also grumble, with good reason, about bureaucratic and legal tangles. The problem runs much deeper than government ineptitude. The bottom line is that few local currencies are convertible into hard currencies, and in many cases Westerners must take their profits in bartered goods that can be sold in the West. And communist-built factories need top-to-bottom reorganization, a formidable management challenge that has discouraged many potential investors.

The recent frenzy of privatization placed the retail trade in private hands, but so far only 10 percent of state-owned industry has been sold. Now a sort of backlash has put a break on privatization: in addition to the mixed feelings about selling industries to foreign companies, there is suspicion that Westerners are buying only the most profitable businesses, leaving the junk to the natives. The Czechs are getting uneasy about overwhelming German investments, and it isn't surprising to hear former East Germans com-

plaining about being "colonized" by West German companies.

Whither Eastern Europe?

There is general consensus that the revolutions in Eastern Europe were anticommunist. But the turnaround in Eastern Europe is essentially about the challenge of modernization.

The changes are typical of those triggered in the West by the Year of Revolutions, 1848, but half-implemented or skipped altogether in the East: the formation or consolidation of nation-states; the building of a market economy; the assertion of political freedoms; the formation of a middle class by and for the market; and agrarian reform giving land to the peasants.

In Western Europe, the development of the market occurred under classical authoritarian regimes, such as Napoleon's in France and Bismarck's in Germany. It took Western capitalism about two centuries to reach the present balance between the market and democracy. In the East, we are falling back into history. Old ethnic and religious conflicts, miraculously preserved in the communist freezer, are coming to the fore, from as far back as the Hapsburg and Czarist empires. Territorial, religious and ethnic claims which were suppressed in Yugoslavia, the Soviet Union and in Czechoslovakia are striking back with a vengeance, while national liberation movements, secessions and declarations of independence dominate the political agenda.

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Freedom is great, but expensive

Continued from page 5

From a socioeconomic viewpoint, the essence of the transition taking place is from *underdeveloped socialism* to *underdeveloped capitalism*, because the balance sheet of four decades of communism is tragic. Eastern Europe is 10 to 15 years behind Western Europe and three or four times poorer. A development gap exists between the two parts of Europe rather than the ideological divide that used to be defined as an

East-West conflict.

Briefly, we have to catch up not only in nationhood, but also in the social stage of development. Communism has retarded the whole historical process. This is what makes the transition to democracy and free market economy so difficult and painful. In Eastern Europe people have seized with both hands the new freedoms and rights brought about by democracy, but they are using them (particularly the freedom to

demonstrate and the right to strike) in order to protest high prices, unemployment and all the suffering caused by implementing a market economy. The first casualty of that contradiction was Polish ex-premier Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the serious man of reform, and the second was ex-premier Petre Roman of Romania, toppled by the miners who rampaged through Bucharest.

Consequently, the trend toward a more authoritarian regime is gaining ground. Polish President Lech Walesa is becoming increasingly impatient with a parliament composed of

29 parties that cannot produce a lasting government coalition. Russian President Boris Yeltsin has bluntly stated that Russia cannot afford a parliamentary system now: he has asked for emergency powers and gotten them.

Interestingly, the nations that enjoyed democracy and a market economy before communist rule, such as Hungary, are now experiencing a smoother political and economic transformation. Czechoslovakia is a different case where, as recent elections indicated, the ethnic factor mixed with the cost of economic reform has put an end to the "velvet revolution" and is now going through the "velvet divorce."

Economically, the main tasks in Eastern Europe now are to stop the decline of industrial production in all post-communist societies and to control inflation, which is rampant. This isn't easy for even the most successful market economy, Hungary.

So far, Western help has been weak and disappointing—a drop in the bucket. In 1990 and 1991, all the grants and aid programs of the European Community, plus the credits and loans of the IMF and World Bank, never surpassed \$3 to \$4 billion annually for the whole region, which is less than Eastern European nations pay out on their foreign debt to Western banks and governments. Hungary alone bears an annual debt service burden of \$2.7 billion in payments on the principal and \$1.5 billion on the interest, making it impossible to use more external financing to boost the economy.

When asked at the Foreign Office in London what the West could do to help Eastern Europe, I replied: "Just stop milking us!" Today, the only effective Western aid would be the rescheduling of foreign debt payments, both principal and interest, for at least five years. Since all Eastern European nations are beginning to increase exports, just the mere possibility of using their hard-earned currency for investments and imports should be enough to boost their economies. They all possess two big assets for competition on world markets: a highly educated work force and cheap labor. By using them intelligently, they could overcome the current economic crisis.

Making the hard decision to defer debt repayments would be in the interests of Western Europe. This is demonstrated by the dangerous and bloody conflicts besetting parts of Eastern Europe. The name of European security today is stability in the East: as long as there is no stability in the East, there is no security in Europe. ♦

The year of the fall: 1989

Workers of the world united—against communism

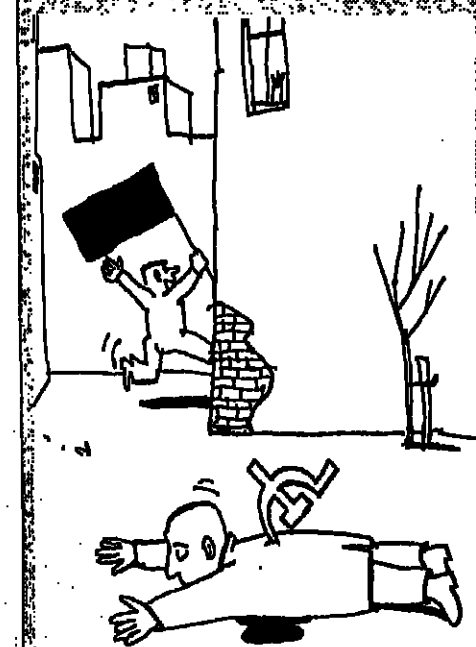
Across Eastern Europe the frozen face of communism had been thawing for years, but the ice finally broke in 1989 and the flood of change began. In that historic year, events moved so fast that they blur in memory. Here with, a month-by-month reminder.

January

• Defying a police ban, 5,000 people went to Wenceslas Square in Prague to commemorate the suicide of Jan Palach, a student who burned himself to death in 1969 in protest against communist rule. Police and militia with dogs, tear gas and water cannons dispersed the crowd and arrested 91. But a few days later, the crowds were back in the squares shouting, "We want to live like human beings," and asking, "Where is Mr. Havel?" (Vaclav Havel, the emerging opposition leader).

• More than 800 young people in Leipzig attempted to demonstrate against controls on freedom of expression in East Germany, but police forcibly broke up the crowd and arrested many.

• Romania celebrated the birthday of Nicolae Ceausescu, wife of president Nicolae Ceausescu, who announced that Ceausescu was marvelous and no changes were necessary.



• Radio Budapest announced that about 10,000 of 65,000 Soviet troops in Hungary would be going home.

May

• The Bulgarian Communist Party's Central Committee considered plans to bring perestroika to agriculture by ending central control, reorganizing rural workers into "farms" and even turning remote lands over to private control. But ethnic Turks began a hunger strike to protest the compulsory changing of Muslim names and the Communist policy of assimilation.

• In East Germany, 100,000 people gathered in Leipzig to demand free elections and support official candidates.

Havel was sentenced to nine months in jail. In Warsaw, Prime Minister Rakowski attended the premiere of two plays by Havel.

March

• The Polish roundtable working group on political reform (comprising Solidarity and government members) reached a tentative agreement. Among other reforms, there were to be free elections for 35 percent of the seats in the main chamber of Parliament, but the Communists and their allies would retain control.

• Six formerly prominent Romanian Communists sent an open letter to President Ceausescu accusing him, among other things, of abusing human rights and ruining the economy. Among the six was *Revista* editor Silvian Brucan.

• In Hungary, the revived Independent Smallholders' Party held its first national congress.

April

• Public approval of Solidarity had jumped from 22 percent in May 1988 to 70 percent in March 1989.

• In East Germany, 700,000 people gathered in Leipzig to demand free elections and support official candidates.

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ported China's crackdown on student demonstrations.

• The body of Imre Nagy, former Hungarian premier who was secretly tried and executed after Hungary's failed revolt against Soviet control in 1956, was reburied in Budapest's Heroes' Square.

July

• US President George Bush addressed the Polish Parliament and announced a plan of economic assistance. Later, he lunched with Walesa at his home in Gdansk. Traveling to Budapest, Bush spoke at Karl Marx University.

• Leaders of the G7 group of major industrial democracies met in Paris and issued a declaration supporting economic and political reform in Eastern Europe.

• More than 100 East Germans were reported to have taken refuge in the West German embassy in Budapest, hoping to make their way to West Germany.

August

• West Germany closed its Budapest embassy because it was filled with East Germans. Later, more than 2,000 East Germans fled from Hungary to Austria, where they received visas to enter West Germany.

• When Communism in the new Polish Parliament had difficulty forming a government, Walesa proposed a Solidarity-led government to replace the Communists.

• In Romania, Ceausescu accused the six former Communists of plotting to overthrow him. He ordered the arrest of the six, but they escaped to West Germany.

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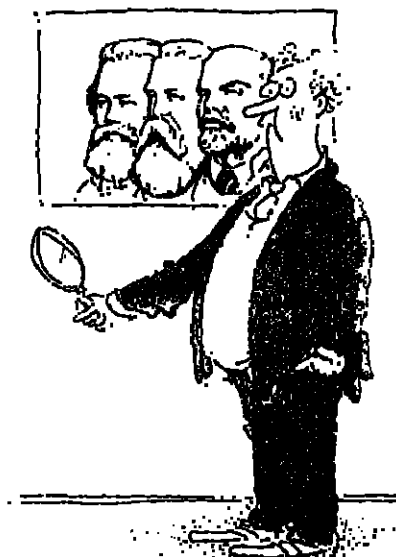
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November

• One million people demonstrated in East Berlin for freedom of speech and assembly and for free elections. Thousands tore down the Wall.

• The entire East German Council of Ministers tendered resignations, and the entire Politburo resigned, but was soon reelected. Later, the government decided to open the borders with the West. (Hungary had already done so.) East Germans flocked toward the borders and met West Germans by the Berlin Wall.

• Walesa, addressing a joint session of the US Congress, said that 20 years of the Communist rule had led to the Polish economy's "the worst in the world."

• An anti-communist rally in Prague attracted 100,000 people. It was the first time since 1945 that a large crowd gathered in the city center.

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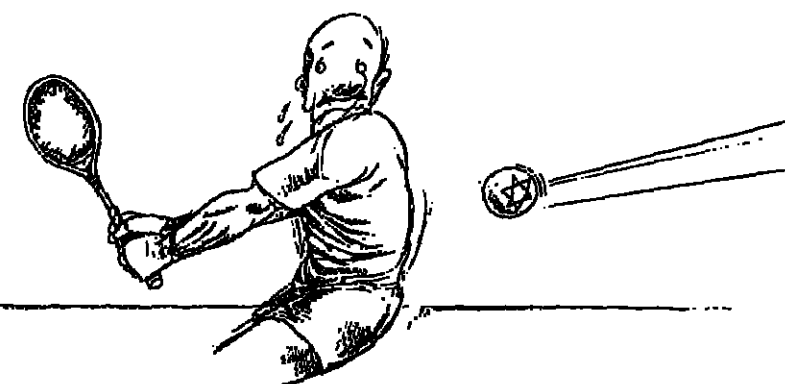
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Our Say....

People are the watchdog

WHATEVER THE outcome of the trial of the two Lower House deputies which began at the State Security Court this week, Jordanians from all walks of life and across the political spectrum should take the side of democracy.

For the past few weeks, the public has been mesmerized by the revelations of the prosecutor in the case of *Al Nafeer Al Islami*. While illegal organizations seeking to topple the state by force are not new to Jordan, the fact that two elected deputies are charged with heading and organizing this militant group, is.

It is up to the courts and to the Jordanian legal system to vindicate or incriminate the defendants. The public should put its faith in the integrity of our legal system and in the fact that we live in a democracy where the judicial is independent of other state branches.

But in the meantime, Jordanians must come to realize that a democratic system incorporates diverse political forces, which can only come to power through public mandate. It is interesting that the case of *Al Nafeer* came to light within a few days of the passing of the Political Parties law, which sets the rules and measures under which Jordan's political parties are to function. While parties represent various points of view on both common and public issues, three things bring them together: Belief in the Kingdom's Constitution, the National Charter and the democratic process.

By adhering to the above, Jordan's political system promises to become a model of peaceful political evolution for neighboring countries. But for every rule there are exceptions; those who claim to have a monopoly on truth and who believe that force can legitimize the usurpation of power. History has taught us otherwise.

Jordan's survival in the coming years and decades will be conditional to public consensus on the rules of the game; to a pluralistic way of life, to democracy and the rule of the majority and to liberal values where the rights of the individual are respected.

The state and its security apparatus cannot be the only bodies responsible for checking illegal parties and clandestine movements. The people themselves must be the ultimate watchdog to safeguard a young and so far fragile way of democratic life.

We must seek to activate legitimate forums of debate and pluralism. The media should take a more leading role in expressing the views of those who seek to participate in the democratic process and Jordan's political machinery. Our educational system must also be improved so as to include the teaching of democratic values in its curricula.

In essence, Jordanians must be vigilant, incorporating themselves fully within the democratic process. They must function as individuals and as groups as part of a democratic society, where public issues are debated and then put to a vote. They must believe that democracy does not belong to one group but to the nation as a whole, and that it must be defended by all.

Only fools can dream of turning the clock back. Our democratic way of life will survive, but only if we believe in it to the extent of defending it at all costs. ■

Dilemmas of measuring human freedom

Dr Abdel-Qader Yassine

"Man does not exist first in order to be free. Subsequently, there is no difference between the being of man and his being free."

Jean-Paul Sartre

"The greatest deprivation anyone can suffer is to have no chance of looking after himself and making a livelihood."

Ernest Friedrich Schumacher

BETWEEN THE Eurocentric existentialism of Jean-Paul Sartre and the challenging *weltanschauung* of economist Ernest Friedrich Schumacher lies a chasm of differences that typifies two worlds — the Western industrialized nations and the developing countries of the south. Yet there is a common meeting ground: Freedom.

Few would deny that freedom — in some form or other — is a vital prerequisite for development, as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) recognizes. Its *Human Development Report 1991* declared: "Human development is incomplete without human freedom. Throughout history, people have been willing to sacrifice their lives to gain national and personal freedom."

Acknowledging this importance, the UNDP sought to incorporate the concept of freedom into its "Human Development Index" (HDI), which fused national income with the two social indicators of adult literacy and life expectancy to give "a composite measure of human progress." The *Human Development Report 1991* takes this attempt forward through the creation of a "Human Freedom Index" (HFI). The report suggests a correlation between human freedom and human development: "Countries that rank high on one indicator also tend to rank high on the other."

It classifies freedom into two clusters: the "negative" freedoms which imply freedom from something — from arbitrary arrest, for instance, or from unjustified attack on person or property; and the "positive" freedoms which are the freedom to do something, for example to attend meetings or organize political parties or trade unions. There have been several efforts to codify freedom, including the comprehensive Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Equally numerous are attempts to measure and test countries against such classifications like the annual surveys of the New York-based Freedom House.

Yet few have won universal approval. Not only do definitions and philosophical slants differ, the very attempt is fraught with difficulties. For one thing, it is not easy to decide what exactly is a violation of freedom. As the report asks: "does the fact that a few citizens of a country have had their passports revoked mean that the country does not, in principle, allow its citizens to leave the country?"

The second difficulty is in the relative importance of different rights. Is the right to a clean and tidy environment more important than a free press? Singapore's former prime minister Lee Kuan Yew would have a firm view on that, but not everyone would agree.

Undaunted by these hurdles, the report goes on to construct a HFI. Its take-off points is the index designed by Charles Humana for 1985 in the *World Guide to Human Rights*. His work was limited by availability of data for only 88 countries.

By fine-tuning Humana's criteria, the report presents a revised ranking of countries (see table). While no country observes all freedoms, Sweden and Denmark top with 38 of the 40 measured freedoms guaranteed to their people. Iraq is at the very bottom.

It is difficult to accept the Human Freedom Index blindly. In my opinion, the index houses stark biases towards Western culture and towards political and civil liberties as against economic and social rights, like the right to food, shelter, work, education and health; and towards individual freedom and personal rights as against collective freedom, so important in societies which have been dominated by Western colonialism.

How can a human freedom index ignore freedoms (such as the freedom from hunger) which are fundamental to the very survival of the human being? Should not such freedoms be given much more weight than, say, the right to travel abroad, which is one of the 40 indicators used in the report?

If freedom from hunger was one of the indicators would not China (which is placed at 84 out of the 88 countries) rank much higher? How would one measure the stupendous achievement of freeing one billion human beings from hunger?

The report is characterized by political slant. Egypt is ranked 56 and finds a place among the medium-ranking countries. Tunisia is 55 and placed among the low-ranking countries. But Tunisia had a freer media, a less subservient judiciary, a stronger and more effective political opposition, and more independent trade unions. Yet Egypt scores higher in the freedom rankings. This is only because Egypt has for a long while now led the US line.

Clearly, measuring human freedom is not going to be just another academic's quick way to the econometric limelight. Fortunately, the UNDP itself recognizes this. "We are still very much at the beginning of a systematic analysis and debate of human freedom." To achieve their "negative" freedom which imply freedom from arbitrary arrest, freedom from hunger, etc., the Third World countries have a long and arduous way to go. ■

HFI ranking of selected countries

Country Total of Freedoms 1991

High freedom ranking (31-40)

38	Sweden
38	Denmark
37	Holland
36	Finland
36	New Zealand

Medium freedom ranking (11-30)

30	Portugal
30	Papua New Guinea
29	Italy
29	Venezuela
20	India

Low freedom ranking (0-10)

10	Poland
10	Paraguay
8	Philippines
7	Tanzania
7	Tunisia

Source: Human Development Report, 1991

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By Sajid Rizvi

UN GENERAL-Secretary Boutros Ghali contrasts it with the "rich man's war" in Bosnia and the media alternate between images of the emaciated in Somalia and the besieged in Sarajevo.

But there is no question about it: while the major powers concentrate their efforts on how not to get involved in the former Yugoslavia they show no intention of interceding in the feuds that have brought famine and death to tens of thousands of Somalis. But this is precisely what they may have to do in order not to lose face.

The United Nations mission to Mogadishu, headed by Peter Hansen of Denmark, already is judged by the world body itself to be nine months too late. "If only we had intervened before November," ruled Mohamed Sahnoun, the secretary-general's representative on Somalia.

In the intervening period the situation on ground has been transformed from anarchy to what Bernard Kouchner, the French minister for humanitarian affairs, rightly terms a "hell on earth."

When this was written people were being shot and killed indiscriminately by rival groups within yards of the Mogadishu port, where only the vermin are feasting on warehouses full of aid grain. Months after the unbridled violence erupted in the wake of Siad Barre's overthrow, the average daily harvest of the innocent still exceeds 200 dead and thousands wounded by all manner of offensive weapons.

The crisis in Somalia can be put into perspective by recognizing some fundamental truths about the country. Firstly, Somalia the state has all but evaporated; it exists only on maps.

Neither the self-styled President Mahdi Mohamed nor his foe General Mohammed Farah Aided exercise any lasting control on territory or people. Yet both have killed hundreds of innocent people in order to enforce their will on both territory and people.

The gun-toting teenage commandos who are loyal to Mahdi Mohammed lead charmed yet, sadly, very short lives. The boys who drive in victory parades in Mogadishu one day are seen rotting in the bullet-pocked

Somalia's 'hell on earth'

The UN and the world are losing face



Somalia's message to the world

streets of the blighted capital the next day.

General Farah's forces, better armed and single-minded in their pursuit of ultimate power over all of Somalia, have embraced every known code of dishonor to join the rogues' gallery that, incidentally, did not exclude Siad Barre himself.

Farah's troops have raped and speared women, bayoneted babies, and then made bonfires of their victims with precious kerosene needed elsewhere for cooking food. These unfortunate civilians were survivors, of course, of earlier massacres by Farah's

foes. The Amnesty International account of these excesses is very specific, though most of it is yet to be published in the popular media which helps form public opinion in the West.

The key issue in Somalia today is an utter lack of basic security, as James Kunder, director of the US Office of Disaster Assistance has acknowledged. Kunder has taken the initiative, after a two-week fact-finding mission, to "judge Somalia's plight as 'the world's worst humanitarian crisis.'"

Where then does the world community

go from here? The obvious need is for guaranteeing that "basic security." The UN's answer so far has been to look at the issue from the perspective of providing armed escorts for the food convoys and relief operations throughout Somalia.

That option is fraught with obvious risks. In a familiar scenario, a UN escort is fired upon by forces seeking to control the food supplies or in any case prevent them getting to their rivals. Does the UN escort cut losses and run or fight back? In essence the issue is comparable to that in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which may explain why the major powers are dawdling on both fronts.

But it is in difficult situations such as these that the United Nations, or outside powers entrusted by it, need to enforce a modicum of discipline where none exists. Both the state and the government of Somalia have practically evaporated; the world community should move in to substitute the latter in order to preserve the former.

Until the bleeding of Somalia is stanchied, the exodus of these people can only get worse. The heartbreak of escape is further compounded by the unwillingness of neighbors to shelter them. Only recently has Kenya, the more prosperous state south of the Somali border, relented in the wake of international pressure. In July it allowed a ship carrying 283 Somali refugees to dock after a six-day stand off. UN officials hope that refugee boat will not be the last one to be permitted to unload its human cargo in Kenya.

Kenyan officials say they are unable to cope with more than 1,000 Somalis trying to cross the border each day. But their change of heart no doubt had something to do with the tragedy earlier in July, when 45 Somalis aboard an overloaded dhow drowned off the Red Sea coast of Djibouti.

A more coherent response may rule out the need for human sacrifices such as these to bring back compassion and common sense on the world agenda. ■

Academic File

Sajid Rizvi is the managing editor of Academic File.

An Israeli view

Perilous to forget the Palestinians

By Gabi Sheffer

We must heed the Arab states, who say the Arab-Israeli conflict cannot be resolved until the Palestinians are satisfied.

AFTER HIS recent harsh denigration of the Palestinians, the PLO and their ability to negotiate peace, it is abundantly clear that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has completely altered his strategy regarding talks with the Syrians and the Palestinians.

For a while, before and immediately after the elections, he declared his preference for quick progress in negotiations with the Palestinians, and a slower pace with the Syrians. Now he has made a full about-turn, preferring first to move ahead in negotiations with the Syrians. To all appearances, he has relegated the Palestinians to second or even third place in his order of priorities.

It is easy to understand this change. Before the beginning of this round of talks, Rabin and virtually everyone else viewed the Syrians as the hardest nut to crack. And Rabin, like almost everyone else, was under the firm impression that President Hafez Assad's "historical enmity" towards Israel, purportedly reflected in the Syrian delegation's opening positions to Washington, would hamper any attempt to break the ice.

This former and persistent Israeli perception reveals the limitations of our understanding of the Syrians. Many experienced analysts of the peace process, such as retired diplomat Mordechai Gazit, claim the Syrians have been ready to negotiate about peace in return for the entire

Golan Heights ever since 1975.

Rabin's reversal as regards the Syrians shows how easily even a politician of Rabin's caliber can change deeply ingrained views about the "enemy" — which ought to serve as a sad but useful reminder of how fickle both government and public opinion can be.

Despite the immense difficulties involved in serious negotiations with the Syrians, there is no need to elaborate again on their ultimate importance for Israel and the region. Quite apart from a basic need for peace with all our neighbors, it is strategically essential that we make progress with the Syrians. They have developed an impressive military capability, their economy is about to surmount some of its problems and their position in international politics has shifted. No difficulties should perturb a determined Israeli leadership on its way toward peace.

All this said, however, it is essential that Rabin and his cabinet resist the temptation to lessen their determination and explicit efforts in bilateral talks with the Palestinians.

The prime minister is not known as the most dovish of Israeli politicians. He and the more hawkish members of his cabinet may perhaps be tempted to believe that reaching some kind of solution with the Syrians could pave the way to retaining most or even all of the West Bank — thus postponing territorial decisions more difficult by far than those concerning the Golan Heights.

But the contrary is the case. Added to Israel's profound moral obligation to contribute its full share to the solution of the "Palestinian problem" are strategic and tactical

interests that dictate the continuation of highly serious and concurrent negotiations with the Palestinians. The importance of this is paramount, even though the Palestinians are internationally split and speak in many voices.

If Israel can avoid stalling strategies and tactics with the Palestinians, it will secure vital political and military interests for itself. Simultaneous progress with the Palestinians would also prevent a situation in which Israel, having reached an agreement with the Syrians, might find itself devoid of sufficient strategic assets.

On the positive side, a serious concurrent negotiating effort could achieve other ends: it could improve Israel's ability to initiate, orchestrate and manoeuvre in its other bilateral talks, since it would be in a better position to assess the trends and moves of the Arab delegations which, to an extent, are coordinated. It would enhance Israel's ability to assess accurately the room for concessions on the one hand, and insistence on territorial and security demands on the other; it would also improve Israel's position in the multilateral talks which will be gathering momentum.

Most important: continuing a serious ne-



gotiating effort with the Palestinians would prevent our falling into the totally mistaken conception — one which characterized the Likud governments — that by "neutralizing" the Arab states through separate bilateral agreements, Israel can bypass a mutually agreed and lasting solution of the Palestinian issue.

Despite Syria's new positive posture and Egypt's improved relations with Israel, all the Arab states keep reminding everyone that the Arab-Israeli conflict cannot be resolved unless and until the Palestinians are satisfied. Under these circumstances, it would be best for Israel to retain the initiative and not forget the Palestinians. ■

The writer is the director of the Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations at the Hebrew University.

Le Jourdain

Section française du Star

A partir du 5 octobre

Nadim où la fuite en avant

Ce peintre et sculpteur irakien d'origine, réfugié en Jordanie, expose ses émotions au Centre culturel français. Des rêves et cauchemars qui prennent leur source dans un quartier pauvre de Bagdad

"MON ART est pur, précise Nadim, il n'est pas influencé par la politique". Pourtant, tout chez ce peintre irakien rappelle une situation de crise. Tout n'est que cauchemar où rêve de fuite en avant, vers la Jordanie d'abord et peut-être un jour vers la France. Nadim s'est échappé "normalement" de Bagdad le premier juillet 1991. Juste après la guerre du Golfe. C'était la seule porte de sortie.

En Irak, son pays natal, ce n'est pas possible d'être peintre. La guerre a tout dérangé dans sa tête et à Karrada, son quartier pauvre d'origine, au centre même de Bagdad. Pendant que d'autres meurent de faim, Nadim est malade d'enfermement. Il pense que rien n'est facile, que rien n'est à sa place. Que tout est dans les mains du gouvernement qui ne peut rien contre la hausse vertigineuse des prix. Même les ustensiles indispensables à la peinture sont inaccessibles ou impossibles à trouver. A quoi bon? Là-bas, selon le peintre, aucun contact possible avec la culture.



Nadim et l'oiseau de feu

Migrations

Nadim, réfugié en Jordanie, exprime ses frustrations antérieures, il produit à la vitesse du F-117, avion furtif américain. L'oiseau de fer pour le peintre, menace permanente qui pesait sur Bagdad. Une masse de métal qui volait très près des habitations, à l'abri des radars indiscrets. L'oiseau est énorme et gris. La ville est petite, et sans défense. A cette époque, maintenant révolus, Nadim voyageait en première classe à travers son imagination.

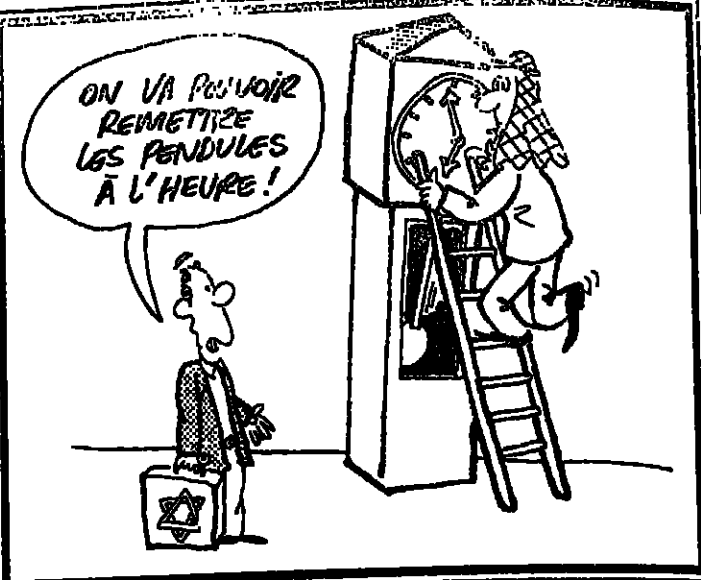
Que faire d'autre? "No way out" comme dit le peintre de sa voix timide. Rien. Rêver d'un bateau en papier dans un petit cadre. Ou bien partir, se mêler à la masse qui décide d'émigrer. Migrations est sans doute l'œuvre la plus importante du peintre. Elle symbolise le désordre, la panique, l'urgence, l'enfermement, les plus terribles

Elle évoque la fuite vers l'unique porte de sortie de l'Irak: la Jordanie.

Nadim ne pourra jamais chasser l'Irak de son esprit tourmenté. Mais il a semblé-t-il réussi à tourner la page noire et à ouvrir un nouveau livre. A Bagdad, il se contentait de produire de misérables dessins dans un grand cahier. Son inspiration se déverse maintenant à grands flots. Tous les tableaux du peintre sont identiques. Un petit carré s'inscrit dans le cadre. Une petite fenêtre sur le monde. C'est en fait le signe d'un rêve nouveau, d'un objet de fascination: l'Arche de la Défense à Paris. Nadim, admirateur des impressionnistes et de la culture française. Après Bagdad, sa première grande expo sera visible au Centre culturel français d'Amman. Sans se forcer, Nadim pense que c'est la meilleure place de la capitale jordanienne. Les Français

compréhendent ce que je fais" confie le peintre. Un travail avec des moyens limités, un culte de la pauvreté utilisant de misérables substituts à la toile tels que papiers, cartons et débris métalliques pour ses sculptures.

Nadim a besoin d'aide. L'artiste s'est fixé la prochaine étape de son errance. Elle s'appelle France. Nadim veut entamer une nouvelle expérience, une nouvelle vie. Contrairement à d'autres, il caresse le "french dream", car pour lui, l'hexagone est la maison de l'art. Et donc le refuge idéal pour l'artiste. Celui-ci projette de retourner à l'école, de repartir à zéro, d'étudier le graphisme sur ordinateur, l'animation... Mais qu'importe le sujet. Le plus important pour Nadim est d'aller de l'avant. De grandir comme ses tableaux. Des ébauches sur un petit format qui deviennent grandes lorsqu'elles se valent la peine. Michel Armand



Télex... Jordanie

PRISE - Un gang de onze personnes, accusé de meurtres en série et de 134 vols en Jordanie vient d'être arrêté par la police locale. "C'était un groupe très bien organisé, qui échappait à la police en usant de tous les subterfuges et de toutes les ruses" a affirmé le chef du Département de la Sécurité Publique. Une imposante cache d'armes et de munitions a également été découverte, comprenant des dizaines de pistolets, des mitraillettes... La gang recelait toutes sortes de postes de télévision, de magnétoscopes, de caméras vidéo, de bijoux, d'ordinateurs...

PAIX - Faysal Al Tarawneh, membre de la délégation jordanienne de retour de Washington, n'a été le témoin d'aucun changement dans la position israélienne. C'est ce qu'il a déclaré lundi, en foulant le sol jordanien. Selon Tarawneh, les Jordaniens et Israéliens n'ont pas pu se mettre d'accord sur un agenda commun des négociations. Motif: la délégation jordanienne est restée sur ses positions quant aux sujets à traiter en priorité.

ARMES - Le ministre de l'Information veut que la région "soit une zone libre en matière d'armement". "Il n'est pas honnête de voir Israël disposer d'armes nucléaires, pendant que les Arabes sont privés du droit de posséder de telles armes" a ajouté lundi Mahmoud El Shérif.

COMMERCE - Le Comité Jordano-libanais pour l'Economie et le Commerce s'est réuni lundi à Amman pour réactiver les relations commerciales entre les deux pays. Objectifs: obtenir une hausse des échanges et renouveler un accord datant de 1965.

CANCER - Le Premier ministre a lancé un appel lundi pour la sensibilisation des Jordaniens sur le cancer, lors d'un meeting de la General Union for Voluntary Societies (GUVS). Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker a insisté sur la nécessité pour la Jordanie de créer un fonds spécial. Son but serait de financer les traitements des couches de populations défavorisées.

A VOIR...

EXPO - Nadim, du lundi 5 octobre au samedi 24 au CCF.

CONFERENCE

"L'espace pictural", par Noël Favrelière, mercredi 7 octobre au CCF. Cette conférence, illustrée de diapositives, sera un survol de l'histoire de "Le mois du je" de l'invention de la perspective par les architectes et les peintres de la renaissance italienne à la destruction "d'un espace" par Braque et Picasso.

CINEMA - "Le mois du je" est un cycle consacré aux documentaires. Quatre œuvres réalisées par des "JE". Lundi 5 octobre à 20h00: "Les années défilé" (1983) de R. Depardon. Sur une table lumineuse, défilent quelques-unes des meilleures photos du reporter ainsi que quelques extraits de ses films. Une vie commentée par l'intéressé lui-même, d'une voix lente, presque brisée.



"Le mois du je"

Interview de Michel Habib-Deloncle

"Nous voulons des joint-ventures"

Le crédo du président de la Chambre de commerce franco-arabe est simple: on fournit ou on s'associe! Des contrats en perspective, dans les mois qui viennent.

LE JOURDAIN: Quels sont les objectifs d'une telle visite?

Michel Habib-Deloncle: Je suis venu en Jordanie avec un double objectif. D'une part, faire rencontrer des entreprises françaises et des entreprises jordaniennes soit dans le domaine commercial, soit dans le domaine industriel. En deuxième lieu, en ce qui me concerne, reprendre contact avec les autorités gouvernementales jordaniennes, avec la fédération des Chambres de commerce et la Chambre d'industrie d'Amman, pour voir comment nous pourrions dans l'avenir développer nos relations économiques. Nous pensions qu'après toutes les difficultés qu'a connues la Jordanie, le renouveau économique créerait les conditions favorables pour une relance des relations commerciales entre les deux pays... Nous nous situons sur le terrain des affaires. Nous souhaitons que les Français vendent davantage en Jordanie, que les Jordaniens vendent davantage en France et que surtout puissent se créer des joint-ventures.



Michel Habib-Deloncle

LJ: Des contrats ont-ils été signés? Dans quels secteurs se sont effectués les pourparlers?

Michel Habib-Deloncle: Je crois que les contacts ont été fructueux... Un certain nombre de membres de la délégation visitait la Jordanie pour la première fois. Tous ont été frappés du climat favorable qu'ils ont trouvé ici et m'ont indiqué leur souhait de réaliser des affaires... Les contacts ont été nombreux et il y a des perspectives. Laissez-faire les hommes d'affaires! Pour les secteurs, c'est très varié. Nous avons sélectionné les plus performants: l'agroalimentaire, l'industrie pharmaceutique, la chimie... Il y avait aussi des hommes d'affaires qui ont déjà des contacts ici, qui préparent une installation. Je pense par exemple au grand groupe français de l'informatique, Bull, qui est arrivé tout juste avec un ordinateur, mais qui en fabrique beaucoup d'autres. Il y a aussi des entreprises de taille moyenne qui venaient présenter leur production et leur savoir-faire, notamment dans les domaines de l'emballage et de l'étiquetage. Il y avait la filiale du grand groupe français Total, spécialisée dans les peintures... Elle a présenté ses possibilités de fourniture ou de joint-venture. C'est à chaque fois le même principe, ou bien on fournit ou bien on s'associe.

dence de la communauté. De toutes façons, nous aurons à partir du 1er janvier 1993, le marché unique qui est prévu par l'Acte unique. Cela veut dire que des entreprises arabes, jordaniennes ou autres, qui par exemple investissent en France, pourront à partir de là développer leur action sur tout l'ensemble du marché européen sans aucune discrimination. Les accords de coopération seront passés avec la communauté, et non pas avec un pays individuellement. Ce qu'il faut retenir, c'est que ce marché est fondé sur la liberté et la concurrence. Comme par le passé, vous aurez une concurrence entre les entreprises européennes sur les marchés arabes et le contraire. Sim-

plement, lorsque vous aurez conclu un accord avec un des pays d'Europe, vous aurez accès à un marché de 350 millions de consommateurs.

LJ: Quelles seront les conséquences de l'Europe pour une entreprise jordanienne?

Michel Habib-Deloncle: Je crois qu'après le vote récent en France sur la traité de Maastricht, la structure définitive que va prendre la communauté européenne est un peu à voir. Il y a encore des pourparlers entre la France, l'Allemagne, la Grande Bretagne qui assume la prési-

balance commerciale jordanienne...

LJ: L'aide française à la Jordanie est-elle suffisante?

Michel Habib-Deloncle: Une aide n'est jamais suffisante. Elle dépend des possibilités de celui qui donne. Lorsque vous voyez un fibre démonté dans la rue, lui donnez-vous toute votre fortune? Vous allez lui donner ce que vous pouvez... Certainement, ce n'est pas suffisant pour les besoins de la Jordanie, pour les attentes des amis de la Jordanie en France. Mais c'est assez pour la capacité actuelle du gouvernement français. Bien sûr, j'espère que la situation économique française va s'arranger et qu'elle pourra aider davantage les pays étrangers.

La Jordanie a traversé des temps très difficiles et nous le savons. Mais si vous comparez avec la situation dans d'autres pays, comme en Somalie, la Jordanie doit s'estimer satisfaite de ce que donne la France.

Je parle d'économie jordanienne et non du gouvernement jordanien, car vous êtes un pays libre et votre planification n'est pas de type socialiste. Lorsque le plan est fait, le gouvernement ne dirige pas les gens, ils font des incitations. Nous n'avons pas l'intention de nous substituer au gouvernement jordanien et à la population, mais nous allons adapter nos efforts. Nous sommes venus. Nous avons accepté la suggestion des Chambres de commerce et d'industrie de recevoir une délégation en France. Cela se fera peut-être l'année prochaine et pas seulement à Paris. Je pense aussi à la ville de Toulouse. Notre action se fait étape par étape... Propos recueillis par Francis Mazoyer

"Lorsque vous aurez conclu un accord avec un des pays d'Europe, vous aurez accès à un marché de 350 millions de consommateurs"

L'EDITO

De Amine Chabouh

A l'aide!

LE MEETING annuel des instances financières internationales (Fonds Monétaire International et Banque Mondiale) s'est terminé à Washington sur une note de déception et de crainte. Les pays en développement risquent de voir leurs projets de décollage économique, d'allègement de la dette et de lutte contre la pauvreté compromis.

La réunion de Washington, ombragée par le séisme monétaire des dernières semaines, a dévoilé une autre crise qui divise cette fois les pays riches. Ces derniers se préoccupent plutôt de leurs propres orages économiques, pour lesquels ils sont incapables de trouver des solutions.

La préoccupation majeure n'était pas la détérioration vertigineuse de l'économie des pays du sud, mais plutôt l'énorme déficit des budgets des pays industrialisés du nord. Les riches opteront plutôt pour une réduction du volume de l'aide étrangère bilatérale et multilatérale.

Si la Suède, considérée jusque là comme l'un des donateurs les plus généreux, a annoncé la baisse de l'enveloppe de l'aide au développement, les autres pays riches risquent de ne plus se gêner pour en faire autant.

Les milliards de dollars dépensés par le Royaume Uni, l'Italie et la France pour défendre leurs monnaies seront sans doute déduits de l'aide qu'attendaient les millions d'affamés et de pauvres du tiers-monde.

Les responsables du FMI ont sollicité les Etats-membres en vue d'injecter 60 milliards de dollars dans la caisse du Fonds. Objectif: répondre aux multiples besoins urgents des nouveaux pays pauvres d'Europe de l'Est.

La participation américaine - la plus importante au budget des instances financières internationales - risque aussi de faire les frais de la campagne électorale américaine. Clinton ne cesse de reprocher à Bush de ne pas accorder suffisamment d'importance aux problèmes internes américains.

Le succès de la réunion de Washington s'est limité à la Tunisie et au Maroc pour leurs politiques financières. Mais les autres pays ont toutes les raisons de s'inquiéter. Le recours au FMI et à la Banque Mondiale ne doit pas être une course vers des mirages.



Congratulations!!
Graduations, appointments, engagements, weddings, newborns, promotions, special awards, excellent achievements.....
Drop us a line and send a photo...we will run it free of charge in The Star's People and Events page.

Opera in Jordan: Local singers break musical barriers

By Mary Denis
Special to The Star

THE RECENT Amman music scene has been truly kaleidoscopic in its abundance and sparkling diversity. Music fans have been treated to a rare and remarkable musical feast.

One such treat was a recent vocal concert held at the RCC by three Arab artists. They were the operatic duo (Tania Nasser, soprano, and Marwan Shamyeh, tenor) and piano accompanist, Siham Baddour.

The concert, held under the patronage of HM Queen Noor in co-operation with the National Music Conservatory and the Medical Aid for Palestine Organization, was an enormous success and showed a high calibre of operatic performance.

From the flamboyant 'Libiamo' of 'La Traviata', to the drama of 'Samson and Delilah', the singers struck resonant chords that sent reverberations into the highly enthusiastic auditorium, keeping it 'charged' until the finale of the gypsy-like 'Merry Widow'.

Says Tania Nasser, the soprano singer, "The audience was so receptive and well-versed that it was a pleasure to perform." Opera still carries the stigma of being music for 'grannies', and having seen better days. But Nasser dismisses this altogether — in her opinion, opera is forever.

Coming from a family of professional artists, studying drama, English literature and fine arts, she is adamant that opera is the grandest of all arts. "Opera is a sum total of all of them. Perhaps because I received an 'international' education, it is easy for me to respond to opera so well," she explains.

Although loyal to the art of classical opera, Tania Nasser believes that there is always scope for experimentation and innovation. She willingly ventures to explore into modern music, strongly preferring Arabic compositions. "I am an Arab. This is part of my identity," she says, "and I like to express myself through Arabic."

With this attitude, Nasser is always on the look-out for interesting compositions by Arab composers.

When she came across Patri-



Tania Nasser

Lama's (Palestinian composer living in France) composition 'The River and the Dead', based on a poem by the renowned Iraqi poet Badr Shakir Al-Sayyab, Nasser immediately decided to include the composition in her repertoire. It is a meditation on the theme of life, death and reincarnation, composed in an atonal contemporary style with strong Arabic intonations.

The performance received a mixed reaction, some were adamant that Arabic poems are not to be touched, others cheered at the innovative approach. Tania herself was satisfied with her trial. She was even told by an appreciative listener, "If Sayyab (the poet) heard you singing his poetry, he would have lived ten more years!"

Another attempt to translate an Arabic poem into music was her latest work 'Intilaaq', presented at the concert last week. 'Intilaaq' is a composition by a Palestinian musicologist and musician called Amin Nasser. It is based on the title poem 'Strive', written by the Palestinian poet Kamal Nasser.

This work, according to Tania, represents a more classical trend in contemporary Arabic music. Born and raised in Ramallah, Tania Nasser is an ardent Palestinian nationalist, who best expresses her belonging and loyalty to her country through music, both classical and Arabic. Her numerous concerts and recordings are always dedicated to the Palestinian cause.

In 1990, Nasser participated in a special program at the UNESCO hall in Paris, celebrat-

ing International Solidarity Day with Palestine. She also participated as a soloist in recording the audio cassette 'Songs From Palestine — Dreams of my People'. The lyrics and music were written by Rima Nasser Tarazi.

Music and Palestine seem to be a motif that runs through Nasser's artistic life work, attracting professionally and emotionally other Arab artists and musicians to her.

Marwan Shamyeh is a rising star on the operatic scene, and at only 23 years has a powerful lyrical voice. Shamyeh has been recently coached by Kenneth Bowen, head of singing at the Royal Academy of Music in London, and was auditioned by leading voice expert Signora Christina Muti.

He has immense vocal artistry; in portraying tragic Cavaradossi from 'Tosca', the irresistible timbre of his voice and convincing acting intensified the drama of the psychology of the hero. When he steps on stage, total transformation takes place, his performing abilities unfold in front of the audience, taking them with him into the magical world of opera.

There has been a lot of talk lately about translating opera libretti into Arabic. This voluminous task has been undertaken by an Egyptian scholar. With partial success, some translations were accomplished, but the idea itself does not seem to have proved fruitful.

But why is this so? Is the language not suitable for opera, or has opera as such not been cultivated in this part of the world?

Shamyeh himself, who at one time sang Rigoletto in Arabic, did not particularly favor the idea. "It sounded a bit strange to me, because of the way a stanza is formed. Arabic accents have to be taken out. It does not do credit either to the composition nor to the language," he said. The reason why it is difficult to translate Arabic 'throaty' language into European classical music, lies in the fact that "in European singing we use head tone, while Arabic singing is guttural."

Both singers agree though, that it is not so much the language barrier that has to be overcome, but the cultural barrier. Opera, as an art medium, is unfortunately still relatively unfamiliar to the Arab audience.

In 1990, Nasser participated in a special program at the UNESCO hall in Paris, celebrat-

Kyfa Salameh: Raising the standards of local theater

By Vesna Masharqa
Special to The Star

KYFAH SALAMEH, the Jordanian actress, was given an award last month for the best female leading role in the play 'The Rebellious Woman and Aragoz', at the fourth Cairo International Experimental Theater Festival. The play was written and directed by the young Jordanian director and actor Hakeem Harb.

"I am very happy to receive this reward," said Kyfa in a special interview with The Star, and added, "At the same time, I do realize the extent of the responsibility I have now in front of the Jordanian audience, my colleagues and myself."

She stressed that it was a wonderful experience for her to work with the talented director Hakeem Harb, who was also her co-star in the play, because he helped her to explore and explode all her inner forces, channeling them out properly into harmonious external forms of acting expression.

"My colleagues and I, Hakeem Harb and Mohammad Sawalqa, worked as a team. Each one of us was free to search for his own feeling for the role, which gave a personal dimension to the characters we were presenting," said Kyfa.

Talking about her role as the rebellious woman, she explained that it triggered a constant process of exploration within her inner self, and opened new possibilities for discovering new aspects of a rebellious personality. As the director commented jokingly, "Yes, it also brought us to the point that where we didn't have appointments to rehearse, or she would reject to take certain directions of movement on the stage which we agreed on. If we



decided that the action will take place at the left side of the stage, I would find her on the right half."

Yet, Harb believes that Kyfa Salameh is a talented actress who has a dominating presence on the stage, excellent voice potential and very developed body language. He also stressed that her talent, along with professional awareness and hard work, could take her very far.

The Rebellious Woman and Aragoz ran for the contest winner title among 33 other Arab and non-Arab participants.

The play also won good recognition at home last year, at the Local Youth Theater Festival, when it was awarded four prizes, of which Kyfa received one.

Kyfa explained that she has a high affinity for experimental theater work, which she finds more fulfilling than the classical theatrical approach. When asked if her rebellious woman role affected her life in any way, she answered, "It seems that it was always in me, but now it has become my life and responsibility."

● In celebration of his Majesty King Hussein's successful surgery and return to Jordan, the American women of Amman here contributed JD500 to the Jordanian cancer society and JD500 to the needy families of Jordan. The American Women of Amman is a social organization that raises money for charity through a Christmas bazaar held each December. Last year's bazaar brought in JD8400, all of which goes to needy Jordanian charities.



● The happiness of Mr Mohammad Mushtaha and his wife Aqlah, was completed on 17 September when baby Isra' came in to fulfill their life. We wish her and her parents everlasting happiness.

The Star Tel. 648 - 298



Programs on
Jordan
Television
from
3 to 9
October

ENGLISH PROGRAM

SATURDAY

8:30 — America's Funniest Home Videos
9:00 — Perspective
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — Mini Series, 'Bonjour La Galere'. Starring Nancy Billi. Antoine is a music composer who works in a commercial company, except he is too busy. This pushes his wife to ask for a divorce.

SUNDAY

8:30 — Coach
9:10 — Jungle Pharmacy. People are becoming aware of the benefits of jungle medicine and how to use it effectively.
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — Continuation of the French film series.

MONDAY

8:30 — The Powers That Be
9:10 — Gone to the Dogs
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — The Gravy Train

TUESDAY

8:30 — Acropolis now
9:00 — Mr Bean
9:10 — Teac
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — When The Lion Roars. A new series that discusses the movie industry and how it has progressed.

WEDNESDAY

8:30 — Saved by the Bell
9:00 — Wednesday's Forum
9:30 — Cuedo
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — Bangkok Hilton



Audrey Meadows co-stars as Mrs Hogoboom in the comedy series 'Uncle Buck'.

THURSDAY

8:30 — Uncle Buck
9:00 — Civil Wars
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — Movie of The Week. 'The Guys'

FRIDAY

8:30 — Too Close For Comfort
9:10 — The Good Guys
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — El CID

FRENCH PROGRAM

SAMEDI

6:00 — Les Aventures du Bosco

FRENCH CULTURAL CENTRE

Registration is now open at the
French Cultural Centre
For the following courses

- French Language courses for adults (all levels).
- DELF and DALF courses.
- Preparation courses for the exams at Sorbonne University (Paris).
- French for business.
- Arabic Language courses for foreigners.
- The registration will last until 6.10.1992 and the courses will start on 7.10.1992 till 15.12.1992

For more information,
please contact the
French Cultural Centre
Tel. 637009, Jebel Weibdeh, Amman.

MERCREDI
6:00 — Des Trains Pas Comme Les Autres
7:00 — News in French
7:15 — Les Beaux Moments du Cirque

JEUDI

6:30 — Hemingway, Episode II.
7:00 — News in French
7:15 — Varieties. A selection of French songs.

VENREDI

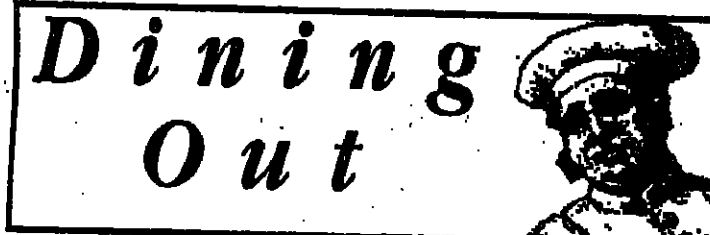
5:30 — Renseignements Généraux. A French film.
7:00 — News in French
7:15 — Fusions. A documentary program.

The Star 648-298

HOROSCOPE

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

ARIES (21 March-19 April): Remember your manners this week. A secret could upset you, or you may have to help a friend.
TAURUS (20 April-20 May): You may have to do something you don't want to do. You can catch up over the weekend.
GEMINI (21 May-21 June): The first of the week is good for travel and get-togethers. From Wednesday on, you may run into trouble with authority figures.
CANCER (22 June-22 July): Be careful with financial resources. Call home Thursday if you need a loan.
LEO (23 July-22 July): Work with a friend Monday and you could form a valuable partnership. Travel is in order this weekend.
VIRGO (23 August-22 September): Love could get in the way of concentrating on something else. The situation will ease on Wednesday.
LIBRA (23 September-23 October): You could be attracted to an engineer or computer whiz. If you can find a quiet spot, you have a chance of meeting deadlines.
SCORPIO (24 October-21 November): Avoid making changes in living arrangements. A friendship you form now could turn into a romance.
SAGITTARIUS (22 November- 21 December): Work should be easy and fun! Some sort of conflict at home Wednesday will need to be resolved.
CAPRICORN (22 December- 19 January): Money may be a concern the first of the week. You may get the house to yourself this weekend.
AQUARIUS (20 January-February 18): You will not have time to sleep this week. Don't let anybody talk you into lending your money.
PISCES (19 February- 20 March): Stick to your routine Monday and Wednesday. Visit somebody you care about on Wednesday.



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Agenda

● Murad Bushnaq, a Jordanian architect is currently holding an art exhibition entitled 'Enigma'. His exhibition of water colors expresses various states of mind in a setting of strong architectural

influences.
● The French Cultural Centre will be holding an art and sculpture exhibition by the artist Nadim, opening Monday, 5 October.

Seminars

● The French Cultural Centre will also be holding a seminar hosted by Noel Favreliere, Tues-

day, 7 October. The conference is entitled 'L'escape Pictural'.

Folklore

● Returning to Jordan from Tunisia are Al Hanunah folklore group. The group will stage their first performance in Amman in cooperation with the public theatre group. The performance will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Would You Believe.....

Someone at an auction paid \$22,400 for a black, polka-dot bathing suit once worn by movie star Marilyn Monroe.

Fig Newton cookies have been around for a century now.

By the time the Mayflower reached America after a 86-day journey in 1620, five people of its 102 passengers had died. But two babies were born.

Your eye sees the color black when there is absolutely no stimulation of the retina.

The Vehicle Assembly Building at the Kennedy Space Center, used to work on space shuttles, is more than 550 feet tall.

The Nebraska Legislature is unicameral, which means it has only one house.

★ CROSSWORD PUZZLE ★

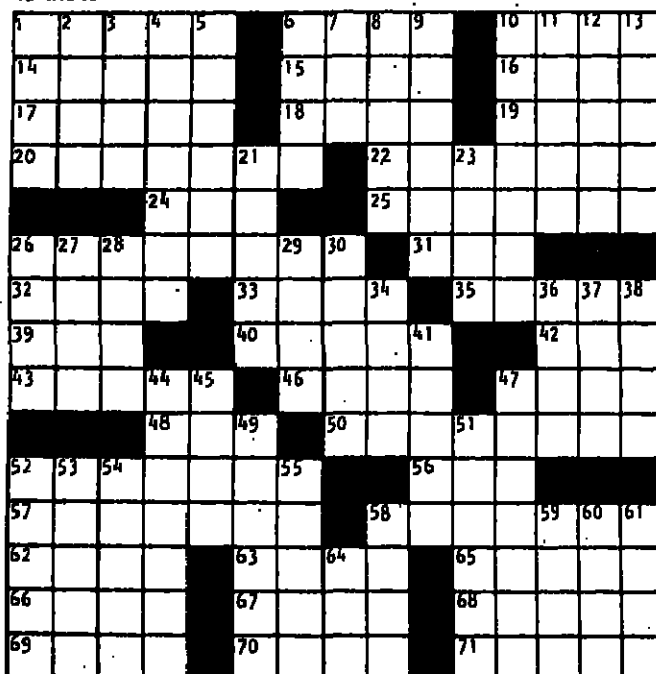
ACROSS

1 Tanned
6 Coarse tobacco
10 Farmer's concern
14 Tragic lover
15 Burrowing rodent
16 Mata -
17 With lance in hand
18 Not covert
19 Car
20 Kind of gun
22 Utterly full
24 Wood sorrel
25 Sang like a songbird
26 Coffee extract
31 Crackerjack
32 King of Norway
33 Change
35 Extemporize
38 6-centime piece
40 Incite

DOWN

2 Psychic
3 Under mental strain
4 Painful
5 Stave
6 Sugary drink
7 Enchant
8 Samovar
9 Into pieces
10 Left
11 Contended
12 God
13 Biblical kingdom
14 Garbo
15 Loch -
16 Meshworks
17 City in Germany
21 Artless
22 Type size
23 Expense
24 Plant of the lily family
25 Satyr
26 Pesters

30 Rye lungus
34 Time long
35 Quiet spell
36 Dies -
37 Morsels
41 Connected series
44 Dishes
45 Work on a manuscript
47 Wicked ones
49 Football team
51 Plod
52 Started
53 Run away to marry
54 Hackman and Kelly
55 Ancient Roman official
56 New big shots: abbr.
59 Expires
60 Diminutive suffix
61 Actor O'Neal
64 Gobble



Solution

ACROSS
1 Tanned
6 Coarse tobacco
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14 Tragic lover
15 Burrowing rodent
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18 Not covert
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21 Artless
22 Type size
23 Expense
24 Plant of the lily family
25 Satyr
26 Pesters

JORDAN BRIDGE

By Ghassan Ghanem

Lazy Affair

MUSTAFA AL-ASKARI keeps on asking me "You write about bidding... where are the topics about defense and play of the hand? I know the bidding is important, but the other aspects are also as important," he persists.

Bidding is the most important aspect of this game, I believe it occupies 70% of the space of importance of the game.

If you reach the right contract, the rest is easy at 90% of the time.

To satisfy my best reader and a good friend and gentleman, this week's hand is about defense.

♠ J 9 8
♥ K Q 5 4 3
♦ A J 3 2
♣ 6

♠ A K Q 5 4 3 2
♥ 9 8 7
♦ 8 7 5
♣ A Q

N
W
E
S

♠ 10 7
♥ A J 10 9 7
♦ K Q 10
♣ 9 8 7

After North and South bid a lot of hearts, West and East reached 4♠ from the west side. Looking at both hands, there are four obvious

losers, all the nine N.S. pairs failed to fail the contract!

The order of cashing the defenders' winning tricks is important, both defenders must be alert and they should correct each other if one falls asleep.

North led the ♥K, an obvious and efficient lead, but south followed with the ♥7 carelessly and North went on with hearts, 12 tricks made! What happened? South should have overtaken the ♥K with the ♥7 to open the diamond suit, after all, from the bidding he knew that the declarer can not have a second heart.

Now take the situation from the North point of view: The ♥7 is the smaller card North could see, encouraging according to the agreed upon signals. What does he think now? My partner wants me to go on with hearts because opening other suits is risky and he is controlling the club suit.

Playing the ♥7 assures the partner that the declarer still holds another heart, at least, if south does not want to overtake, he should play the ♥10 as a suit preference for the diamond shift.

Mustafa promised me to write out some hands about the play of the hand and defense. Until then, take this hand:

♠ A 9 7 5 3 ♥ K 9 3 ♦ A 10 9 8 3 ♣ A 10 9 8 3

Playing teams, second in hand, vulnerable against not:

1- Do you open? 2- If you do, what is your opening bid?

Next week we will discuss this hand.

THE FAR SIDE

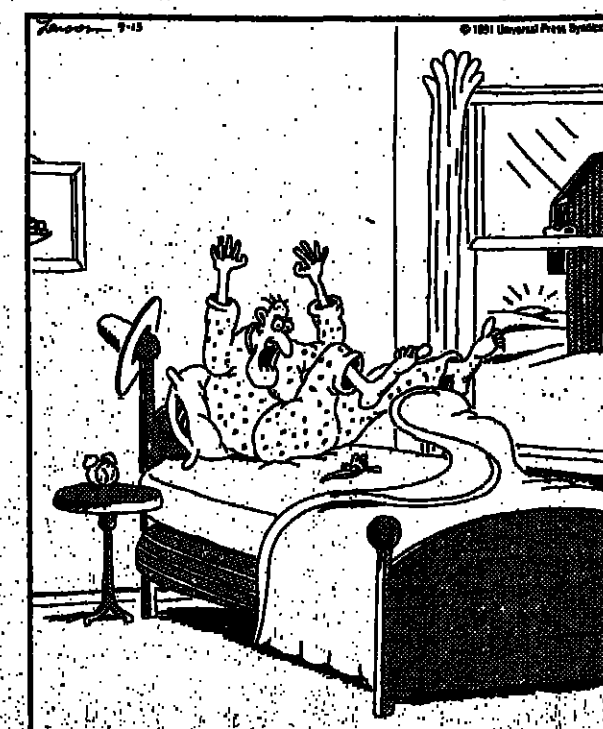
By GARY LARSON



Group photo disasters



Where the deer and the antelope work



The Farmers' Mafia sends Henry a message

Diplomatic Corps

Algerian	641271/2
Austrian	637246/7
Austrian Embassy	664648
Bahrain	675483
Belgian	818151
Bulgarian	666124
Canadian	661336
Cyprus	677559
Czechoslovakian	665105
Danish Consulate Gen	622324
Finnish Consulate	623443
French	641273/4
German	689351
Greek	672331
Hungarian	816614
Indian	637262
Iran	639331
Italian	638185
Consulate Gen. Ireland	630878
Japanese	672486/7
Yugoslavian	665107
Kuwait	675135/8
Libyan	666118
Lebanese	641381
Moroccan	641451
Netherlands	637967/625165
Indonesian	828911
North Korean	666349
Norwegian Consulate	637164
Pakistani	622787
Palestine	677517
People's Rep. of China	666139
Philippines	645161
Polish	637153
Qatar	644331/2
Romanian	667738
Saudi Arabian	814154
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Queen Alia Airport (08)53200

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Museums

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. year round. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al-Qal' (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 638795.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries, and a collection of paintings by 19th century Orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Weibdeh. Hours 10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 630128.

Churches

St. Joseph Church: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman. Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Weibdeh. Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein. Tel. 661757.

Terrassants Church: (Roman Catholic), Jabal Weibdeh, mass in Italian every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366.

Church of the Annunciation: (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.

Church of the Redeemer: Jabal Amman. Tel. 625383.

Armenian Orthodox Church: Ashrafieh. Tel. 771751.

St. Ephraim Church: (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church: (Interdenominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 827981.

Church of the Good Shepherd: (Evangelical Lutheran) Um As-Summaq. Tel. 811295.

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